

Second Senate body eyed in Mike A probe

STORY
ON PAGE A2

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INIIMBITA LANG
PALA, SO PWEDENG
TUMANGGI?

HINDI RIN!



Arabs just 'invited' for questioning

ISABELA CITY—Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar has changed his mind. He no longer wants "Arab-looking" people in his province arrested but merely "invited for

ARABS/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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★

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7 Abus killed in clashes

GMA says soldiers have engaged main bandit force in Basilan

BY JULIE S. ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—At least seven Abu Sayyaf members were killed while 20 others were wounded when Army Scout Rangers clashed with the bandit group's "main force" in Lantawan town on Sunday.

Seventeen Scout Rangers were seriously wounded in the fierce clashes that started at 9:30 a.m., according to Col. Roland Detabali, chief for operations of the military's Southern Command.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu placed at 15 the number of dead Abu Sayyaf members, according to reports from the Agence France Presse and the Associated Press.

"Those are the figures we have from the field and are subject to verification," he told the AFP.

The AP also quoted Cris Puno, spokesperson of the Basilan provincial government as saying that 18 bandits were reported to have died in the fighting.

Officials said 10 civilians were also wounded.

"Our troops on the ground reported heavy enemy casualties because of our volume of fire," Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade and chief of Task Force Group Thunder, told reporters.

In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo last night told a gathering of the Jesus Is Lord Movement that government troops had engaged the Abu Sayyaf's "main force" in Basilan.

"The firefights are in progress. These started last night (Saturday) and continued the whole day," she said.

The President, who was the guest in the JIL's 23rd anniversary celebration at the Rizal Park, prayed that the Abu Sayyaf would not escape this time.

Esperon said the clashes erupted between Barangays Upper Manggas and Balatanay at the boundaries of Lantawan and Isabela City.

"It's a fierce and heavy exchange of fire power, (it is still) ongoing," Esperon told the INQUIRER.

He said Maj. Carlos Galvez Jr. was "person-

7 ABUS/ A19



FUEL STOP: Journalists witness the landing of six Japanese military cargo planes at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for refueling. The planes are on their way to Pakistan to bring relief goods to Afghan refugees.

ERIK ARAZAS

Japan planes on aid mission land

BY TJ BURGONIO

SIX JAPANESE military cargo planes bringing relief goods to Afghan refugees in Pakistan made a refueling stop at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday.

Japanese Ambassador Yoshihisa Ara and military attaché Col. Tatsuya Kitahara welcomed the planes' 140 personnel, mostly airmen from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF).

Col. Eiichi Yamaji of the JASDF headed the mission.

Seichi Kimoto, deputy general manager of Itochu Corp., who accompanied Ara and Kitahara, said the planes were on their way to Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, to deliver relief supplies intended for Afghan refugees.

"This is a humanitarian mission in support of the US-led international coalition," he said, noting that the six planes were the first to be sent on such a mis-

sion in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Hundreds of Afghan families started crossing the border into Pakistan last month amid fears of a massive US military attack against Afghanistan.

The ruling Taliban government in Afghanistan has refused to surrender Osama bin Laden, alleged mastermind and financier of the terrorist attacks in New York and

JAPAN/ A18

Taliban beef up border defense; US troops arrive

ISLAMABAD—Tension mounted in central Asia with US President George W. Bush giving his clearest indication yet that military action would be launched soon and the Taliban deploying extra troops to Afghanistan's northern border.

The Taliban rulers, vowing to "fight to the last" against those who side with the United States, said Sunday that they had sent thousands of troops to the border with Uzbekistan, whose president has allowed US troops to use an air base for the anti-terrorism campaign.

"We have deployed our forces there at all important places. This is the question of our honor, and we will never bow before the Americans and will fight to the last," the independent Afghan Islamic Press, which has connections to the Kabul regime, quoted a Taliban defense ministry official as saying.

The international vise against the Taliban is tightening as the rigorously Islamic militia continues refusing to hand over Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, the No. 1 suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

On Saturday, Bush emphasized that "our enemy is not Islam" and told the Taliban rulers their situation was grave.

"Full warning has been given and time is running out," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Taliban claims about sending troops to the Uzbekistan border could not be independently verified.

However, Russia's Interfax news agency reported Saturday that Taliban troops were moving long-range artillery and multiple rocket launchers toward the border.

More than 10 guns and rocket launchers had moved within range of the Uzbek border town of Termez, according to Interfax.

The Taliban militia is already fighting a coalition of opposition forces in northern Afghanistan. Its enemies had made little progress against

TALIBAN/ A18

Saudi bomb blast kills 2; 2 Pinoys hurt

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia—A bomb blast on Saturday evening killed two foreigners and wounded five others, including two Filipinos, on a busy shopping street in this eastern Saudi city.

A US Embassy official on Sunday confirmed that one of those killed was an American. The nationality of the second fatality could not yet be confirmed.

Windows were shattered and cars were damaged when the powerful blast rocked

King Khaled Street, a shopping area popular with foreigners, about 7:45 p.m.

A nurse at the Khobar's King Fahd University Hospital identified four of those injured as American John Mablis, 45; Briton Ayoob Marno, 45; and Filipinos Richard de la Rosa, 33, and Diosdado Baylomo, 35.

The nationality of the fifth person injured was not immediately available.

Mariano Dumia, chargé d'affaires of

the Philippine Embassy, told Agence France Presse that two Filipinos were wounded, their eardrums badly damaged.

"We are trying to confirm the reports through our contacts with Saudi authorities," Dumia said.

Police are still investigating whether the blast in Khobar, site of a bomb attack five years ago in which 19 US servicemen were killed, was politically motivated.

US officials in Washington said they

saw no immediate link between the explosion in Khobar and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Police sources said the explosion appeared to be part of a string of bombings that rocked the kingdom last year, which Saudi newspapers linked to a lucrative but illegal alcohol trade.

There were conflicting accounts, how-

SAUDI/ A18

A non-entity nominated to Berlin

BY AMANDO DORONILA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's nomination of Rufus Rodriguez, immigration commissioner of the Estrada administration, as Philippine ambassador to Germany snaps the limit of presidential discretion in appointing our envoys plenipotentiary to foreign countries.

It reflects the President's absence of strategic perspective in the country's foreign affairs, and underlines the contrast with the geopolitical strategic sense of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

This goes to show that having a strategic concept beyond the scope of domestic political tradeoffs cannot be transferred through the genes.

ANALYSIS

By nominating a non-entity to Berlin, which after the unification of Germany has become the de facto capital of Central Europe, the President displayed the low priority assigned to Germany in our diplomatic establishment's hierarchy.

The nomination is an insult to Germany, the country's No. 1 trading partner in Europe and biggest donor of Official Development Assistance. It lacks sensitivity to the importance of Berlin as the foremost diplomatic listening post in Europe at a time when the balance of power on the continent is shifting, with Berlin as the center of gravity.

And what has Germany done to deserve being the dumping ground of a political nominee?

A NON-ENTITY/ A18

Economy to grow; so will national debt

THE PHILIPPINE economy may grow the fastest in Southeast Asia this year. That's the good news.

The bad news is the country is sinking deeper into the red as investments drop, exports shrink and other key sources of revenue are hit by the global slowdown.

The likely consequence: the government would be forced to borrow more.

Analysts say that while many of its neighbors struggle to avoid recession, the Philippines should post gross domestic product (GDP) growth of about or just under 3 percent this year.

Thanks to good weather boosting agricultural production and a relatively large population fueling domestic-induced growth, the Philippines is less dependent on exports compared with Singapore and Malaysia, whose economies are expected to contract this year.

"But while Singapore has a strong war chest in terms of reserves and Malaysia has good savings, the Philippines doesn't have much ammunition up its sleeves during a downturn," economist Song Seng Wun of G.K. Goh Stockbrokers said.

The country's foreign reserves of about \$14.5 billion are among the lowest in the region.

In Iloilo City, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the crippling effects of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States on the local economy would become evident in the next few months.

"We are facing a more difficult external environment that will be more evident in the coming months," Roxas told around 200 local government officials and business leaders at a strategic planning workshop for the Panay area.

Roxas said the attacks have worsened the crisis of the US economy, which was already on the brink of a recession.

He said the attacks would also worsen the

ECONOMY/ A18



ERIK ARAZAS

WORLD ANIMAL DAY

Dino, a 7-year-old Central American Iguana, stands out among the animals that were blessed on Sunday, World Animal Day, at the Malate church in Manila.

Second FRONT PAGE



ARROYO

Second body eyed in Mike probe

BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO
AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE SENATE majority will hold a caucus to-day with no specific agenda in mind, but it is possible, some solons said, that they would discuss the impending Senate inquiry into the alleged misuse of government funds by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said yesterday she intends to propose at the caucus the designation of a second committee to assist in the investigation into the charges against Mr. Arroyo.

Last week, the Senate committee on constitutional reforms, revision of laws and electoral reforms, chaired by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, was tasked to investigate charges the President's husband used sweepstakes funds to help some ad-

ministration senatorial candidates in their campaigns.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, in a privileged speech, had accused Mr. Arroyo of dipping his fingers into the P250-million advertising budget of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo had questioned the selection of Angara's committee to do the investigating, when after all, he said, it was the opposition that made the allegations against the First Gentleman.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had also expressed fears of a witch-hunt if the opposition took the lead in probing her husband.

Legarda said she would propose at today's meeting that the Senate committee on government corporations be allowed to participate in the inquiry.

"It's because the PCSO is a government corporation," the senator told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

She said the committee had no chairman yet but she would nominate Sen. Renato Cayetano for the position.

On his weekly radio program over dzRH radio yesterday, Mr. Arroyo vehemently denied he had anything to do with the supposed anomaly in the sweepstakes office.

"I'm innocent," he said, stressing that this would be his last statement on the matter.

Former PCSO media consultant Robert Rivero had accused Arroyo of heading a "Department of the Underground" that milked millions of pesos from the sweepstakes office.

The PCSO, Rivero had said, entered into an agreement with several radio stations in the last elections,

but instead of airing sweepstakes ads, the stations played the campaign ads of four administration senatorial candidates.

Rivero also claimed the Arroyo camp had offered him a "financial package" in exchange for withdrawing his testimony.

Arroyo denied this yesterday, saying he had never talked to Rivero or sent anyone to talk to him.

"I never called him. I never sent anyone to talk to him. I don't know anything about that. I don't meddle in those things and (Rivero) has even cleared me," Arroyo said, speaking in Filipino.

Also yesterday, militant groups said President Macapagal should apply transparency to the dealings of the First Gentleman, and advised her against defending her husband outright without the benefit of an investigation.

Emilia Dapulang, Kilusang Mayo Uno vice president, said the fresh charges against Mr. Arroyo were "alarming since this is not the first time Mike Arroyo has been dragged into a corruption scandal."

"The President should be transparent with regard to the dealings of the First Gentleman and the First Family. She cannot right away insist that Mike is innocent and be publicly defensive of him," Dapulang said.

Dapulang also called for a speedy investigation into the charges against Arroyo, saying "he should not get away this time."

Dapulang noted that Arroyo hurriedly left for the United States purportedly to have a slipped disc treated after he was implicated in a telecoms bribery scandal several months ago. With Gerald G. Lacuarta

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Will Ador and Danny D appear in next Senate hearings?

By CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

WILL Angelo "Ador" Mawanay and Danny Devnani be called to the next hearings of the Senate committees looking into the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson?

This question cropped up as the three Senate committees conducting the inquiry into Lacson's alleged illegal activities meet today to discuss the next stage of their investigation.

Last Friday, the committees wrapped up their investigation of Lacson's alleged drug trafficking activities.

Sen. Robert Barbers said Friday that they would discuss today the schedule of the hearings on Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities.

The hearing on money laundering, originally scheduled for today, was cancelled after the Department of Justice requested for more time to produce documents from the US Attorney General's office.

The DOJ had asked the US Attorney General's Office to provide documents showing that Lacson had bank accounts in the US suspected of containing laundered money.

"We will give them sufficient time

but it doesn't mean that we will wait forever," Barbers said.

The government made the request to the US based on the testimony of Mawanay, who supplied officials with a bank account number of Lacson in the US.

Mawanay, who claims to be a former civilian agent of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) which Lacson headed, claimed that he was instructed by Lacson to go to the US in connection with his bank deposits there.

Asked whether Mawanay would be called to testify again in the Senate in-

quiry, Barbers said it was "possible."

Mawanay's lawyer Argee Guevarra said he expected his client to be invited to the money-laundering hearings since he supplied the bank account number of Lacson in Citibank. Guevarra said the Federal Bureau of Investigation had verified the existence of the account.

Guevarra lamented though that his client was not given the same chance as Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former narcotics civilian agent, to present his case when the Senate was hearing the drug trafficking accusations against Lacson.

The senators, he

said, did not even ask Mawanay whether he had more to say when they wrapped up their hearings on the drug charges.

He said the senators could be "apprehensive about embracing the truth of Mawanay's statements as it may have a negative impact on the interests of some sectors."

Guevarra declined to elaborate. He said Mawanay had given testimonies that he thought the senators should have looked into.

He cited the Navy unit that Mawanay said was involved in drug trafficking.

For his part, Leonard de Vera, law-

yer of Devnani and Ong, expressed concern that Devnani would not be called to the next Senate hearings.

Barbers said the committees would have to determine whether to call Devnani, who accused Lacson of being the "brains" behind kidnapping for ransom in the country, among others.

"We will evaluate his (Devnani) statement if there is necessity to invite him based on the issue (at hand)," Barbers said.

Barbers said Devnani was not invited to the hearing last Friday because he did not implicate Lacson to illegal drug activities.

Rosebud vows to bare more letters to pin down Ping

MORE letters will be provided to the Senate by ex-undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong implicating Sen. Panfilo Lacson and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force to the kidnapping and disappearance of other suspected Chinese drug triad members.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said that aside from the six letters that Ong presented to the senators during last Friday's hearing, Ong would present them next week with six more.

Ong had given the Senate letters from the Hong Kong Royal Police, the Chinese Embassy in Manila, and the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong asking Lacson, then chief of the PAOCTF, to help inves-

tigate the kidnapping of Wong Kam Chong in Manila on March 26, 1999.

Ong said Lacson designated Senior Supt. Francisco Villaroman as head of the team that investigated the Wong case when Wong's wife had told authorities that Villaroman was behind her husband's kidnapping.

Ong's counsel, Leonard de Vera said yesterday that the other letters his client would provide the Senate also showed that the PAOCTF had been asked to help in the investigation of the kidnapping of Chong Hui Ming and another victim.

Ong had testified that Chong was kidnapped in December 1999 by the men of Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop. She said Chong and Wong were killed even after their families had paid the ransom.

"It shows that the PAOCTF was aware of the problem," De Vera said.

Arroyo chided Ong for not giving the Senate the letters.

Because the letters were not made available to the Senate, Acop and his men had been taking the heat for the kidnappings, thereby "shielding the PAOCTF," according to Arroyo.

But De Vera explained that Ong was not given the chance to complete her slide presentation and testimony, which included pieces of evidence that the PAOCTF was aware of the kidnapping cases of suspected Chinese drug triad members.

Christine Avendaño

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Gov't urged to step up drive vs rice smugglers

A SENATOR urged the government to step up its campaign against the entry of smuggled rice into the country saying this threatens the very livelihood of small Filipino farmers.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Manny Villar cited the latest haul of the Bureau of Customs where 200,000 sacks of rice from Thailand amounting to P160 million were seized at the Subic Port.

"Rice smuggling has hurt our small farmers and all government agencies must work together in putting an end to this," said Villar who chairs the Senate committee on food and agriculture.

Villar explained that the local farmers "are unable to compete with cheap smuggled rice. "For the sake of our small farmers, we must exert all efforts in clamping down on rice smuggling," said Villar.

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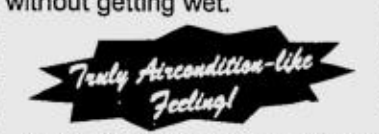
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BY ROCKY NAZARENO

SOLONS from the South yesterday assailed a travel advisory issued by the US State Department cautioning Americans from going to Mindanao in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Representatives Juan Miguel Zubiri (Bukidnon) and Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Norte) issued separate statements calling on the US government to rescind the travel advisory.

"Bukidnon is far safer than the Bronx," said Zubiri. Zubiri also said that issuing the adverse travel advisory was "no way to treat a friend who was among the first to come to its aid and to offer the country's air and naval bases for the use of American troops."

According to Barbers, "Americans will feel much safer in Mindanao than in their homeland." He said Mindanao "registers the lowest crime rate in the country."

"The turbulence is limited to isolated pockets in

the small island of Basilan but the whole region is generally peaceful," Barbers said.

The Surigao congressman, who is chair of the House committee on accounts, noted that Mindanao remains to be "home to thousands of US citizens who have been seduced by the serene and stress-free way of life on the island."

"(The US citizens) are the best argument against the baseless travel advisory which was probably written by a Washington bureaucrat from the safety of his word processor inside his bunker," Barbers said.

Zubiri also said that "many US companies have operated in Mindanao for over a century."

"They have survived war and rebellion, yet not one of them closed shop purely for security reasons," he said.

Zubiri called on Malacanang to "spare no effort in convincing Washington to rescind the unfair and baseless travel advisory."

"If the advisory stays, the timetable for Mindanao's economic recovery will again be derailed," he said.

DOT office turned into 'war room'

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon has transformed the reception room of his office into a "war room" to monitor promotional strategies, including Visit Philippines 2003, and to react quickly to the negative effects of terrorism on Philippine tourism.

On Friday, Gordon ordered all country desks and

Philippine regional offices to man a dedicated computer each at his office for quick and strict implementation of measures to prevent unwarranted decline in international tourism arrivals and to boost domestic tourism.

Travel jitters in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks have caused a string of adverse developments on airlines, hotels and resorts and many travel-oriented businesses.

While a pall of gloom hovers over the travel industry, Gordon remains upbeat of a tourism turnaround as the world gives another look at Asia as a safer travel destination.

"If we play our cards right, we stand a good chance of getting more tourists from all over the world," said Gordon.

Gordon recently returned from the 14th World Tourism Organization meeting in Seoul, South Korea and Osaka, Japan and a millennium conference of world tourism leaders in Osaka. Upon arrival at the airport, he told reporters, "World tourism leaders affirmed that more travelers will cast their sights at Asia, particularly East Asia, choosing us over Europe and North America. Surely, many will avoid the Middle East."

Gordon has directed Tourism Undersecretary for Promotions Rolando Reyes to see to it that all country desks and Philippine regional offices set up computers at his office for quick dispatch and receipt of reports from tourism market representatives and attaches.

"I want to know every day what our market reps and regional offices are doing to meet our goals," he said.

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Jail post done deal, Lina told

THE NEWLY appointed chief of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology has appealed to Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. to desist from engaging in political maneuverings to force the reinstatement of his recommended as jail bureau chief.

Senior Supt. Josue G. Engaño, a lawyer, was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as jail bureau chief on Sept. 25. He assumed the position on Sept. 28.

In a letter, Engaño informed Lina that he would not relinquish the BJMP post on a mere memorandum "holding in abeyance" his appointment. "There is nothing anymore to hold in abeyance because my appointment was already officially released by Malacañang and I have taken my oath of office and assumed the post effective Sept. 28."

Engaño also told Lina that even the former jail bureau head Chief Supt. Arturo Alit recognized the validity of his appointment when he voluntarily vacated the post on Sept. 27.

He said the memorandum signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo on Oct. 2 was no longer valid because what it ordered to be held in abeyance was already a consummated act. The executive secretary was clearly misinformed by Lina, he said.

The new BJMP chief also reminded Lina that it was upon his instruction on the evening of Sept. 27 and again in the afternoon of Sept. 28 in Camp Crame that he assumed the post starting last Friday.

Engaño lamented that Lina continued to back Alit who was found by the Presidential Management Staff to be less qualified compared to him. The PMS Search Committee findings were used by President Macapagal in appointing Engaño.

He said that "the matter of appointing the BJMP chief is clearly vested by law in the hands of the President."

Engaño also claimed that he was told that there was no Palace memorandum ordering the suspension of his appointment.

Sen. Robert Barbers, who administered the oath of office on Engaño, was reportedly informed by Romulo that he did not issue any order suspending Engaño's appointment.

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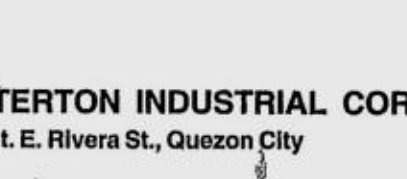
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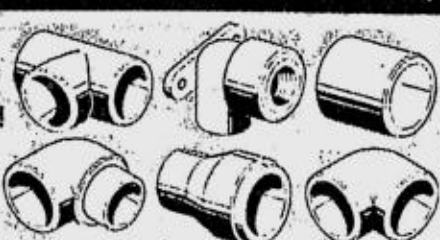
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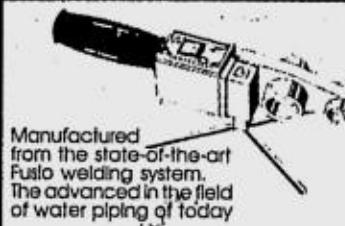
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Terrorist attacks in US undermining wage hike bids

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

DON'T look now, but the economic slowdown in the United States following the terrorist attacks there may affect the pay hikes to be granted by local wage boards to Filipino workers this month.

The Department of Labor and Employment said employers in Metro Manila and Central Luzon were worried the terrorist attacks on the US had slowed local businesses to the point they may not be able to grant higher wages to their workers.

The DOLE, in a statement, said em-

ployers had complained the aftershocks of the terrorist attacks were gradually being felt by local export firms and the travel and hotel industries.

The National Capital Region (Metro Manila) wage board held its last public hearing on Sept. 26 on the P77 across-the-board daily wage petition filed by the Labor Solidarity Movement and was expected to issue a wage order this week.

During the public hearing, a representative of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City, who spoke in behalf of hotel personnel, said the hotel industry was fac-

ing setbacks due to decreased tourist arrivals, predominantly Americans.

Other reasons given by employers for the poor economy were the peso instability, sluggish business climate and uncertain peace conditions.

Complaining of high operating costs, labor-intensive products and losses that may trigger retrenchments and closures, employers proposed instead a P300 monthly cost-of-living allowance in lieu of the wage increase for selected industries, the DOLE said.

The DOLE said other regional wage boards were closely monitoring condi-

tions in their respective areas and holding public forums to determine the amount of pay hikes needed by workers to cope with the rising cost of living.

Even with the pending wage hike petition filed by the moderate LSM, militant groups led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno are pressing for a legislated P125 across-the-board wage increase through a bill filed by Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Bayan Muna and the Wage Increase Solidarity (WINS P125) will hold a forum "Legislators for P125" at

the Bahay ng Alumni at UP Diliman tomorrow to drum up support for Beltran's House Bill 2605, or the bill calling for an immediate P125 across-the-board wage increase for all Filipino workers.

Beltran said Congress should take back the responsibility for setting wage standards in the country by legislating a substantial wage increase.

The regional wage boards have done nothing but make a mockery of the Filipino workers' struggle for a just

living wage and have been one of the primary mechanisms blocking substantial wage hikes," Beltran said.

"Congress should immediately legislate a wage hike and in the process crush the authority of the wage boards over the wage issue," he added.

The KMU has been urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify Beltran's bill as urgent, but the DOLE warned that a P125 wage hike would result in layoffs to two million workers.

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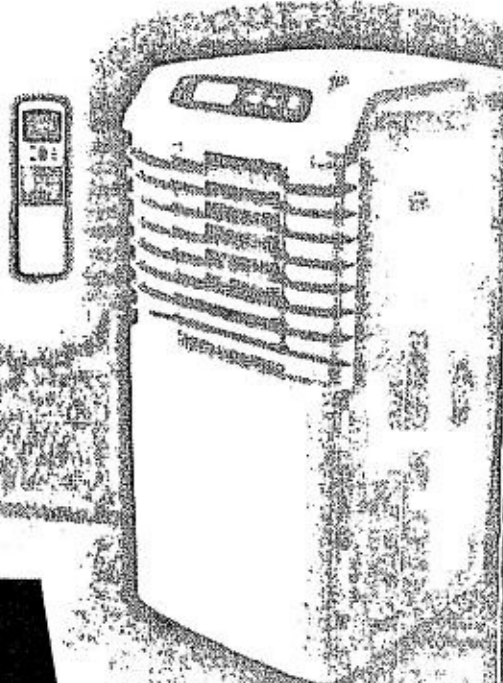
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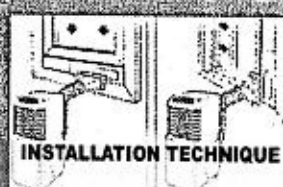
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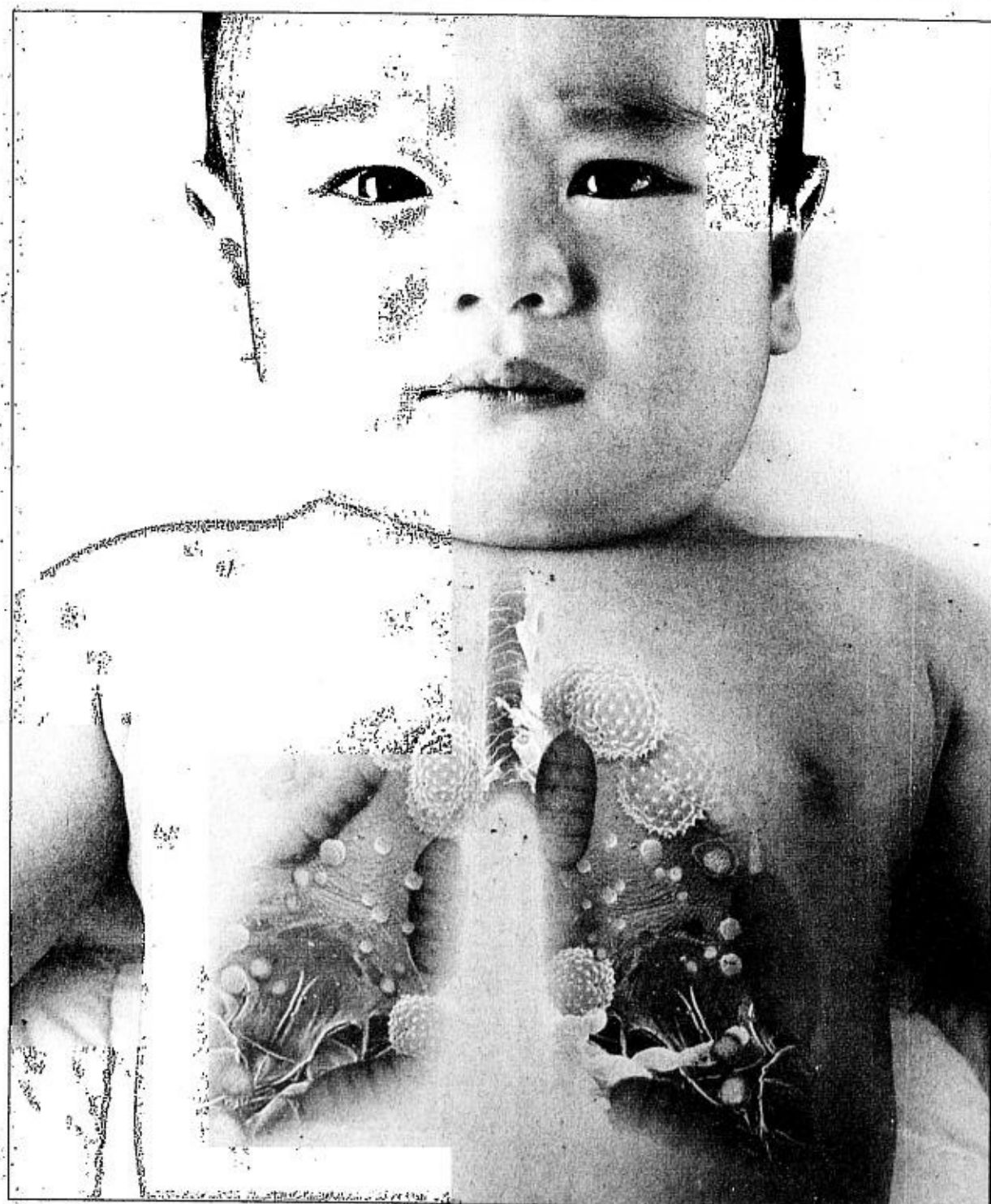
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Ruckus over Rufus

WHAT was she thinking?

The President may have thought that, by appointing the former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez as ambassador to Germany, she could help neutralize the opposition. Rodriguez, after all, was formerly the spokesperson for the Puwersang Masa, once the election lawyer for reelected Sen. Gringo Honasan, and currently the chief of staff of Sen. Loi

EDITORIAL

Ejercito. By taking him out of the political equation, the President would have converted a liability into an asset.

But that kind of balance-sheet politics belongs to the past—more specifically, to the politics before the second coming of People Power last January. By seeking to include Rodriguez in her administration, the President betrays the very principles that led to her administration's rise to power.

We have nothing against Rodriguez, a former law dean; his turn at the helm of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation during the Estrada administration was a bright spot in an otherwise dismal term. Thus, we have no quarrel with the President's assessment of his performance as immigration chief—when she says, for example, that he “was doing a very good job” then.

But Rodriguez has cast his lot with the disgraced former President. He has, in fact, led the chorus in charging the government with election fraud during the May elections. He seized national attention by fighting the administration tooth and nail over the issue of the 13th Senate seat. His actions (appearing before the Commission on Elections, for example) imply that he has accepted the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration, but his words raise questions about the nature of that acceptance. By what conceivable act of the imagination can he now presume to represent the Philippines and the country's second people-powered administration before Germany and other members of the international community?

We have taken him at his word. How can he now justify turning around and represent—before one of the most influential countries in the world—a President he has opposed and a government he has accused?

The President has sought to justify her appointment by phrasing it as a matter of commitment: “the thing is, I made a commitment to him in January and I wanted to comply with it,” she told reporters last Friday.

We have no reason to doubt that the President is a woman of her word. But in this particular case her idea of commitment is several levels lower than where we fully expect it to be. Her commitment should be to the ideals of Edsa II—if nothing else, to the notion that an engaged citizenry deserves nothing less than a moral government.

But last Friday, the President said a revealing mouthful. “The Edsa II forces had their nominee (for immigration commissioner) and that was (Andrea) Domingo. I felt that although I had to ask Rufus to give way to (Domingo), I wanted him to be part of my administration so I asked him if he would be willing to be an ambassador.”

Notice the distinction she makes between “the Edsa II forces” and the presidential “I.” This distinction makes sense only if the President's undoubted mandate to serve were electoral, not moral. That may come in time, if she wins reelection in 2004. In the meantime, she holds the distinction of being the representative in chief of those “Edsa II forces.” Rodriguez chose to serve against those forces; not just once, at the time Joseph Estrada was deposed, but several times since January. He has proven himself a capable and high-profile member of the opposition against Edsa II; he therefore has no business representing the government that emerged out of it.

A freshman senator took aim at the heart of the matter. “The chief of staff of Loi—the very symbol of the old administration—is being awarded a plum post in this government.” The Macapagal administration may have its reasons for supposing that this particular point can be fudged, but surely the Germans are not as dense as we sometimes turn out to be?

Former justice secretary Artemio Tuquero, another stalwart of the Estrada administration, has also been named ambassador, this time to Canada, yet another plum diplomatic post. What's next? The obstreperous Estrada spokesperson Boying Remulla as press secretary?

DEAR Ms President,

One of the biggest problems of your administration is the lack of funds. It faces a big budget deficit because of a drop in tax collections. With the expected worldwide economic crisis because of the forthcoming United Nations war against terrorism, tax income is predicted to drop even lower. You need all the help you can get to tide over your government during these hard times.

Sixty-four companies owe the government a total of P5.3 billion in taxes in the infamous tax credit scam. This is the case where companies who did not pay taxes to the government obtained tax refunds through tax credit certificates. Many of the companies were not exporting, in fact, not even operating. Some were non-existent at all. Yet 64 companies obtained a total of 1,600 tax credit certificates (TCCs) that deprived the government of P5.3 billion in revenues. (As I See It, 6/29/00, 7/3/00, 10/2/01)

These companies then sold the TCCs to other companies which used them to pay their taxes. The government was defrauded twice: it refunded taxes that were never paid; and lost the taxes due from other companies.

Two of the biggest buyers of the fraudulent TCCs were oil companies, Shell and Petron. They owe the government a total P1.5 billion in unpaid taxes. Shell bought P917.6 million worth of TCCs from 20 supposed exporting companies. Petron, ironically half owned by the government, owes the national government P679.3 million in fraudulent TCCs from 11 companies which it used to pay its taxes. This is a case of a government corporation defrauding the national government of taxes.

The biggest claimant of TCCs is the Chingkie group of companies owned by Chinese-Filipino businessman Faustino Chingkie. His 33 companies, affiliates and subsidiaries allegedly obtained fraudulent TCCs totaling P2.54 billion.

In October 1999, President Estrada created Special Presidential Task Force 156 to investigate and prosecute former officials of the Department of Finance and private businessmen involved in the tax credit scam.

The task force is supposed to endorse the re-

MY e-mail has been crowded lately with some pretty eloquent pieces. Here are a couple of them. I can only cite passages—these are fairly long ones. They were not written by terrorists, or communists, or anti-Americans, they were written by writers—though the distinction between them is no longer so easily seen in these days of miracles and murders.

The first comes from Arundhati Roy, author of the luminous “The God of Small Things,” a novel that should be required reading for anyone wanting to write, giving as it does a magnificent lesson in sound and sense, word and meaning. The second is from Ariel Dorfman, a Chilean writer who escaped the terror that followed the 1973 CIA-authored overthrow of Allende, and who has lived in America since. He wrote “Death and the Maiden,” a play that was eventually turned into a movie, starring Ben Kingsley and Sigourney Weaver. For those who have not seen the play or movie, it tells the story of a former torture victim who one day hears someone she thinks might have been her torturer—she never saw his face during her interrogation. She kidnaps him and interrogates him in turn.

Roy: “In 1996, Madeleine Albright, then the US secretary of state, was asked on national television what she felt about the fact that 500,000 Iraqi children had died as a result of US economic sanctions. She replied that it was ‘a very hard choice,’ but that, all things considered, ‘we think the price is worth it.’ Albright never lost her job for saying this...”

“It must be hard for ordinary Americans, so recently bereaved, to look up at the world with their eyes full of tears and encounter what might appear to them to be indifference... (They) ought to know that it is not them but their government's policies that are so hated. They can't possibly doubt that they themselves, their extraordinary musicians, their writers, their actors, their spectacular sportsmen and their cinema, are universally welcomed...”

“America's grief at what happened has been immense and immensely public. It would be grotesque to expect it to calibrate or modulate its

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An open letter to the President

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



sults of its investigation to the Department of Justice for preliminary investigation. After the DOJ special prosecutors find a prima facie case, they are supposed to endorse the case to the Ombudsman for filing with the Sandiganbayan. To date only 5 percent of the cases are with the Sandiganbayan, 8 percent are with the Ombudsman, 5 percent are with the DOJ, and 82 percent are still with Task Force 156.

Worse, the Sandiganbayan dismissed 62 counts of graft and estafa cases worth P10.7 million in fraudulent TCCs against former officials of the DOF, executives of Petron and two other firms involved in the tax credit scam. Reason: the reinvestigation ordered by the court, upon petition by the defendants, was not yet finished after one year and four months.

The principal accused in these cases were former Finance Undersecretary Antonio P. Belicena, and Deputy Executive Director Uldarico P. Andutan of the One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center, OSS for short. The two officials and DOF tax specialists and evaluators were charged with 40 counts of graft and 22 counts of estafa through falsification of public documents. Also charged were top executives of Petron Corp., Circular Knitting Industries Corp. and Universal Steel Smelting Co. Inc. The government is supposed to have appealed the dismissal of the cases.

The problem is that the cases involved so much documentation and the prosecutors of the Ombudsman adopted a shotgun approach wherein they wanted to hit everybody with one shot. However, the cases that were filed included a mix of companies with legitimate and fraudulent TCCs and transfers. The legitimate firms were lumped with textile firms that were not even oper-

ating yet were able to obtain TCCs fraudulently and sold these for cash.

The complexity of the cases were too much for the prosecutors of the Ombudsman. They need the help and advice of Task Force 156, but they were too proud to ask or even accept it. Is this plain incompetence and inefficiency, or was there a malicious and willful intent to have the cases dismissed?

Another mistake was to prioritize the small companies. The investigators spent too much time building a case against bus firms with TCCs worth only P200 million. On the other hand, the task force has yet to file a case against the Chingkie group which obtained P2.54 billion worth of TCCs. There is also no case filed against Shell, which has close to P1 billion TCCs.

The trouble is that the life of Task Force 156 expires on Oct. 10, 2001, just two days from now, unless you Ms President extends it. This has been brought to your attention several times since you became President but there seems to be a “conscious inaction” in your administration on the issue. Lawyers who have left the task force since January have not been replaced until now. How can the task force do its work without lawyers?

People are already grumbling that your administration is not interested in pursuing the cases because the scam “happened during the term of former President Ramos and that among those involved are former DOF officials linked to Mr. Ramos.”

Ms President, how can you stamp out graft and corruption when you allow the crooks in the tax credit scam to get away with their crimes? How can you be credible when you say that your administration will practice “new politics” if you show that you are still practicing “old politics”? How can you collect more taxes when you let crooks steal taxes that should go to the government? How can you make people pay the correct taxes when you show that it is so easy to cheat the government and get away with it?

People (this journalist included) still believe in you and want to help you. Show us that that belief, faith and trust are not wasted.

Cassandras

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anguish. However, it will be a pity if, instead of using this as an opportunity to try to understand why Sept. 11 happened, Americans use it as an opportunity to usurp the whole world's sorrow to mourn and avenge only their own. Because then it falls to the rest of us to ask the hard questions and say the harsh things. And for our pains, for our bad timing, we will be disliked, ignored and perhaps eventually silenced...

“Who is Osama bin Laden really? Let me rephrase that. What is Osama bin Laden? He's America's family secret... He has been sculpted from the spare rib of a world laid to waste by America's foreign policy: its gunboat diplomacy, its nuclear arsenal, its vulgarly stated policy of ‘full-spectrum dominance,’ its chilling disregard for non-American lives, its barbarous military interventions, its support for despotic and dictatorial regimes...”

“Now Bush and Bin Laden have even begun to borrow each other's rhetoric. Each refers to the other as ‘the head of the snake.’ Both invoke God and use the foosie millenarian currency of good and evil as their terms of reference. Both are dangerously armed—one with the nuclear arsenal of the obscenely powerful, the other with the incandescent, destructive power of the utterly hopeless. The fireball and the ice pick. The bludgeon and the axe. The important thing to keep in mind is that neither is an acceptable alternative to the other.”

Dorfman: “The differences and distances that separate the Chilean tragedy from the American one (the CIA-engineered overthrow of Allende, which also took place on Sept. 11, a Tuesday) are considerable. The depraved terrorist attack against the most powerful nation on earth has

and will have consequences which affect all humanity. Whereas very few of the six billion people alive today could remember or would be able to identify what happened in Chile.

“The resemblance I am evoking goes well beyond a facile and superficial comparison... What I recognize is something deeper, a parallel suffering, a similar pain, a commensurate disorientation echoing what we lived through in Chile on Sept. 11.

“It's most extraordinary incarnation—I still cannot believe what I have been witnessing—is that on the screen in the weeks past I have seen hundreds of relatives wandering the streets of New York, clutching photos of their sons, fathers, wives, lovers, daughters, begging for information, asking if they are alive or dead. The whole United States has been forced to look into the abyss of what it means to be *desaparecido*, with no certainty or funeral possible for those beloved men and women who are missing.

“Over and over again I have heard phrases that remind me of what people like me would mutter to themselves during the 1973 military coup and the days that followed: ‘This cannot be happening to us. This sort of excessive violence happens to other people and not to us...’

“One of the ways for Americans to overcome their trauma and survive the fear and continue to live and thrive in the midst of the insecurity which has suddenly swallowed them is to admit that their suffering is neither unique nor exclusive. (It is for them to show) they are willing to look at themselves in the vast mirror of our common humanity, with so many other human beings who, in faraway zones, have suffered similar situations...”

“We will find out in the years to come if the new Americans forged in pain and resurrection are ready and open and willing to participate in the arduous process of repairing our shared, our damaged humanity. Creating, all of us together, a world in which we need never again lament one more terrifying Sept. 11.”

Words to live, rather than die, by. Though I often wonder if writers are not modern-day Cassandras, given the gift of vision and foretelling, only to sound their warnings into deaf ears,

No fair shake for Mike A?

IN JUSTIFYING her recent appointment of former Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez as ambassador to Germany, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stressed that he was "a good BID commissioner, just like the present one." She was referring to BID Chief Andrea Domingo, who is regarded as a no-nonsense, honest official doing a good job. As our media colleague Mon Tulfo noted, Rodriguez enjoys a reputation for honesty, but this is not the reason some majority senators are disgruntled over his new appointment.

The fact is that Rodriguez was not only the chief of staff of former First Lady and now Sen. Loi Ejercito; he was also the lawyer of the Pwersa ng Masa in the recent elections and in the tight contest between it and the People Power Coalition for the last places in the senatorial race. Rodriguez gave the PPC senators, especially 12th placer Ralph Recto, a tough time at the Commission on Elections. The PPC senators lament that the Palace, in appointing him, showed little sensitivity to their feelings. *Bakit naman iyong tormentor pa namin*, they query, when actually there are a number of people who played big roles in Edsa Dos, who are still waiting for diplomatic posts.

The counterargument is that this is a step toward reconciliation with the Erap forces and Rodriguez has promised not to be "partisan." But, as the King of Siam put it, "eez a puzzlement." This morning the majority senators meet to discuss this issue.

I read the draft of the anonymously authored speech circulating in the Senate denouncing Mike Arroyo and the final one that Sen. Panfilo Lacson delivered. The similarity is quite striking. What's also striking is the lack of any attempt by the opposition to be a bit more refined about it. After the speech was passed around for what Sen. Aquilino Pimentel termed "forum shopping," the opposition led by Sen. Edgardo Angara filed a resolution seeking an investigation of Lacson's allegations versus Arroyo, and lodged it before the Senate committee on constitutional amendments and electoral reforms.

Sen. Joker Arroyo asserted that his blue ribbon committee should have jurisdiction over that case since it involves possible graft, but the op-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



position argues that this cannot be as Joker himself is involved in the controversy. That's fair enough, but the trouble is that the committee on constitutional amendments, which is going to hear the resolution authored chiefly by Angara, is chaired by himself, with the writer of that anti-Mike Arroyo speech, Angara's lawyer, Demaree Raval, as his handpicked committee secretary. Thus, Angara becomes the main accuser, prosecutor and judge. No wonder President Macapagal feels Mike won't get a fair shake despite Angara's assurances of fairness.

Since Sen. Francis Pangilinan heads the justice committee that will jointly hear this case, why not let Pangilinan's committee handle it alone? After all, there are enough opposition senators there to ensure credible proceedings.

I had a chance to chat with Sen. Juan Flavio, one of two winning senators, along with Joker Arroyo, accused by Lacson of having benefited from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's largesse, courtesy allegedly of Mike Arroyo. Flavio laughed off the accusation and said that with him consistently landing on top in the pre-election surveys and No. 2 in the final outcome, it was clear that he didn't need the PCSO's help; neither did Joker who landed No. 5, he said. Flavio stressed that the two of them probably spent the least among the candidates.

Incidentally, he is probably the most popular in the chamber, as he is always around to give his colleagues a quorum. Under the rules no hearing can be conducted unless there is a quorum, which means at least two senators, and Flavio is on record last year as having attended over 400 such hearings. At the recent energy committee hearing chaired by Sen. John Osmeña, for instance, he was again the reinforcer until Sen. Serge Osmeña joined them.

Little terrors we share

RUDY Encabo, a field reporter of GMA-Davao, prowled nightly the city's different police precincts in search for news. Although quite new to television, the former radio reporter is no stranger to graveyard shifts.

Only five months into his new job, he already showed his mettle as a TV reporter, and was getting used to its attendant risks, threats and, sometimes, perks. Until Sept. 26, 2001.

That night, while driving on the way to a police station, Rudy, with his cameraman, Jay Glodo, was terrified and horrified to see a fully loaded speeding 10-wheeler truck about to ram their company vehicle. In split seconds, the vehicle was forcefully thrown a distance away. Rudy was brought by fellow TV journalists who happened to be in the area to a private hospital where he was declared in critical condition. Jay suffered only minor injuries.

In the hospital, Rudy found out he was in for another kind of "terror." His severe head injuries and deformed pelvic bone required immediate major surgical operations. The hospital required a P50,000 down payment for operations amounting to nearly half a million pesos. But being a mere TV "talent," who only gets paid per appearance or report made, the amount was simply too big for Rudy to cough up. Talents like Rudy are not considered regular employees by networks, and therefore, cannot be accorded the privileges their regular counterparts enjoy, like SSS coverage.

Concerned, the local press clubs, led by veteran journalist Tony Ajero, came to the rescue by organizing a fund-raising drive to help defray Rudy's medical expenses. The city government also vowed to help. But the funds raised were simply not enough. To cut costs, he was forced to transfer to a government-run hospital. The GMA management, according to reports, was at first reluctant to shoulder the amount considering Rudy's status as a talent only. It took several days before GMA finally provided the much-needed financial assistance.

Right now, Rudy is recuperating from a brain

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate



operation in preparation for another one. And, more funds are needed.

To a certain extent, Rudy can still be counted as lucky. Two years ago, another Davao radio talent met a similar accident while on a coverage. The reporter's family had to mortgage hard-earned pieces of property to pay for his medical needs as his media outfit only extended a limited help.

Rudy's case has exposed the sad plight of provincial journalists, particularly those in the broadcast industry, where these so-called foot soldiers are being treated differently from their Manila-based counterparts, not only in pay, but also in other privileges. To think that it is these provincial correspondents or "talents" who regularly feed stories and cover dangerous assignments in far-flung areas, including war zones. Worse, even after risking their lives, many talents remain so for years without proper compensation, not to mention job security. Just recently, several long-time "talents" of ABS-CBN-Davao who filed a case for regularization with the labor department, ended up finding their contracts not renewed by the management.

And, it seems this sad plight is not enough. Even the government fails to give "talents" like Rudy a break. Starting Sept. 1, "talents" will be slapped with a 20-percent withholding tax by the BIR under its current drive to raise more revenue for the cash-strapped Macapagal administration. (This will apply only to talents who earn certain amounts a year.—Ed.) "This is very unfortunate, sad and discriminating," commented Leo Villareal, a convenor of the Alliance of Broadcast Talents for Individual Concerns.

"Our pay as talents is already very low and

then comes this. We must not be compared with other high-salaried talents like big media personalities, actors, actresses, basketball stars, etc."

"It will surely have a big economic repercussion on the city if it will not be recovered the soonest," commented General Santos City Health Officer Fidel Peñamante. He was referring to a pumpboat loaded with a smuggled load of 500 kilos of mercury that sank in the waters of Sarangani Bay last Sept. 30.

The southern port city of General Santos, known as the tuna capital of the country, exports tons of tuna every day. Only recently, it concluded a "Tuna Festival," showcasing, among others, the products of the city's canneries. Reports said that the exact location where the pumpboat sank could not be determined as yet. "If the mercury contaminates Sarangani Bay, then we are in for a big disaster," says Peñamante. His fears are not unfounded.

More than the economic impact, the effect of mercury poisoning is a menace that threatens many gold-rush areas in Mindanao. Mercury is known to be the "cheapest," yet destructive, means of extracting gold from ores.

As a result of years of being exposed to the substance, many residents, particularly in Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley, were found to have high levels of mercury in their bodies. River systems surrounding these places were also found to be highly contaminated with mercury. That situation, experts have long warned, is a ticking bomb that may soon explode like what happened in the infamous Minamata Island of Japan.

But despite the dire warnings, greed and get-rich-quick mentalities of financiers and many others prevail together with the apparent inability of government to quell the problem. As a result, the use of the "terror" substance continues. When this will end, nobody knows, maybe until the situation explodes.

Comments may be e-mailed to karlos_z23@hotmail.com

The innocent culprit

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

VISIT any Philippine government office, especially the big ones, and on any day of the week you can probably go to Holy Mass. For example, at one line agency along the Quezon Memorial Circle, there is a large central chapel for Roman Catholic worshippers, just a few steps from the secretary's office, complete with statues of the Virgin Mary, the Sto. Niño in some *déclassé* outfit, and all the symbols of our dominant religion. There is, of course, no official sanction against Muslims conducting services in any of these offices, and some actually have a space reserved for that purpose. But would Catholics try to do Mass in a mosque or in the offices of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao?

So what is wrong with this picture? Well, for one thing, it is patently unconstitutional. For another, it is hideously hypocritical, considering the crimes of graft and corruption, incompetence and dereliction of duty within earshot of the Our Father and within sight of Holy Communion. It reveals how little we understand democracy and the meaning of religious freedom. The continuing practice is an example of tyranny of the majority. It is a stinging institutional insult to our Muslim citizens, and anyone else who wishes to worship or not to worship. It is a glaring flaw in our democracy that no one has the courage to correct or mitigate because practically everyone in power and most who work for the government are in fact culturally Roman Catholic. Then we wonder why Muslims don't want to be a part of this republic.

A more disgusting display of our blind intolerance occurred just before the Christmas break in the impeachment trial, when the Senate's last act was to give way to the singing of a triumphalist Catholic hymn in the very halls where democracy sought to triumph over the immorality and criminality of Joseph Estrada and his cohorts. (This is not surprising for a Senate about to engage in a total whitewash of Ping Lacson, but that's another story.) Singing the Jubilee Song was an unconstitutional act that pointedly told every non-Catholic, you are not part of this government's concerns because your most deeply held beliefs are just superstitions to us, or "godlessness."

Of course, the situation is even worse in many

Muslim countries, where no pretense to democracy is attempted at all and religion is an explicit weapon of war, vengeance and resentment. This is an admirable candor, but its inevitable fruit is seen in the *fatwa*, or religious decision, issued by Osama bin Laden and company and published in the Arabic newspaper *Al Quds al-Arabi* on Feb. 23, 1998. It enumerates the three main reasons for calling on all Muslims to participate in a jihad or holy war against the United States.

First, for over seven years the United States has been occupying the lands of Islam in the holiest of places, the Arabian Peninsula, plundering its riches, dictating to its rulers, humiliating its people, terrorizing its neighbors and turning its bases in the Peninsula into a spearhead through which to fight the neighboring Muslim peoples.

Second, despite the great devastation inflicted on the Iraqi people by the crusader-Zionist alliance, and despite the huge number of those killed, in excess of one million...despite all this, the Americans are once again trying to repeat the horrific massacres, as though they are not content with the protracted blockade imposed after the ferocious war or the fragmentation and devastation.

Third, if the Americans' aims behind these wars are religious and economic, the aim is also to serve the Jews' petty state and divert attention from its occupation of Jerusalem and murder of Muslims there.

On that basis, and in compliance with God's order, we issue the following *fatwa* to all Muslims. The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies—civilians and military—is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it, in order to liberate the *al-Aqsa Mosque* and the holy mosque from their grip, and in order for their armies

to move out of all the lands of Islam, defeated and unable to threaten any Muslim. This is in accordance with the words of Almighty God, and fight the pagans all together as they fight you all together, and fight them until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God.

There is no lack of holiness even among the terrorists. But the danger of annihilation is greater now than during the Cold War, when the acknowledgement by both sides of a "mutually assured destruction" kept an uneasy peace since neither side was suicidal. But now, America, the lone surviving superpower is faced with opponents that willingly accept martyrdom as the price of attacking the enemy. All of America's nuclear arsenal and mighty armed forces cannot prevent war by threatening to send its enemies to the paradise of Allah. Moreover, the discovery that fanaticism plus a 747 airliner can do as much damage as a small nuclear bomb, means that there is now a deadly parity of terror. The only difference is, the other guy in the locked shed full of dynamite is willing to light the matches.

Through all of this, "responsible church leaders" on all sides are condemning war and calling for peace. It is an urgent task and the greatest challenge to the world's civil society if there is such a thing, to close ranks and prevent a devastating descent to annihilation. In the Philippines, the Catholic Church can start by making symbolic acts that are pointedly conciliatory and in defense of democracy. It should call for the removal of all religious artifacts from government offices and insist that Catholic masses be held only where they should be, in consecrated churches, in private Catholic schools but not public schools, or better, in the hearts of men. I beg Jaime Cardinal Sin and Catholic leaders to do this courageous and righteous thing, because the government and our politicians are incapable of it.

This would not be a suppression of religion even if it inconveniences the devout. It symbolically places the need for democratic morality, which everyone can certainly agree on, above theology and faith, upon which no one has ever agreed, or ever can. Without this clear precedence, neither can survive, nor can humanity.

Discriminatory labels

FOR REASONS not attributable to their fault, our Muslim brothers and sisters are adversely affected by the anti-Afghanistan, anti-Osama bin Laden and anti-everything associated with Islamic terrorists hysteria that has swept the First World countries since the Sept. 11 blasts in the United States.

A reader, Robert Valderama, wrote to say that the *INQUIRER* appears to have been influenced by such a reaction. He called the attention of the newspaper to the news report that came out on Oct. 2 titled "Outright inaccurate."

The news is primarily about the statement of the National Bureau of Investigation denying reports that it had implicated groups identified with then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as responsible for the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

The NBI confirmed though that the bombings were meant to destabilize the Estrada administration. The report submitted by NBI officer in charge Lolito Utico to the Department of Justice recommended the filing of murder and multiple murder charges against the suspects.

What caught the ire of the reader in that news was the following paragraph: "In the report, Utico asked the DOJ to conduct preliminary investigation of the murder and multiple murder charges against eight people most of whom have Muslim-sounding names." (Underscoring ours)

The reader acknowledged that the reporter may not have anything against Muslims but "the way the sentence was written may leave a different message to the subconscious. It is the kind of language that could fuel hatred and contempt against all Muslims. It's as if the writer suggests that the crime may be attributed against all Muslims."

"The writer may not have intended it, but that's how it affects some of us. I believe the last phrase 'most of whom have Muslim-sounding names' is not only inappropriate but does not contribute any significant point to the article. While it may be true that they indeed have 'Muslim-sounding names,' it would suffice that the writer only state their names and leave the obvious observation to the readers."

Public statement

The reporter concerned, Michael Lim Ubac, immediately gave his side of the story when informed of the complaint. He explained that the controversial phrase was used several times by NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco in the course of the press conference he conducted on the subject matter. And so did Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

In other words, the phrase in dispute was an accurate account of the words the government officials mentioned actually said during the press briefing. Even the charge sheet covering the investigation identified the suspects as "Muslims" or coming from Mindanao.

The reporter said he is conscious of the need to be cautious in submitting reports that may appear to discriminate against Muslims. That's why when official NBI press releases tend toward that direction, like when the statement is titled "5 Muslim robbers arrested," he removes the term "Muslim" and substitutes it with some neutral or non-discriminatory word.

He observed that in the context of the recent terrorist attacks, international wire agencies and newspapers refer to suspected terrorists, for example, as "Four Pakistanis arrested" or "arrests of Middle-Eastern looking men" to put in the right context their stories.

Evaluation

The reader raised a valid point. The phrase "Muslim-sounding names" carried undertones that put our Muslim compatriots in a bad light. It smacked of racial profiling that gave the impression that terrorist bombing (or any criminal act for that matter) is something that Muslims are expected to indulge in.

This practice of citing the Muslim character or identification of a person suspected of committing a criminal act has become standard operating procedure in police investigation reports. And that habit, wittingly or unwittingly, has been perpetuated by the media in their reports on the incidents.

Worse, the labeling has, in some instances, expanded to include Ifugaos, Igorots and other members of minority groups that live in the northern part of the country.

So we have headlines that scream about the arrest of Muslim traders for the sale of smuggled goods, Muslim men caught drug-pushing or Muslim rebels nabbed for attempting to bring in unlicensed firearms or what have you. But if a non-Muslim or somebody who professes to be a Christian is arrested for any of the acts earlier mentioned, there is no mention at all of his religious or cultural affiliation.

The reader is right in saying that if Muslims are involved in criminal activities, it is enough for the newspaper to simply "state their names and leave the obvious observation to the readers." No doubt, the readers of the *INQUIRER* are intelligent to determine, on the basis of the names given, whether the suspects are Muslims or not. In others, there is no need to rub it in when some of our Muslim brothers and sisters sometimes get into trouble like many of our other non-Muslim countrymen.

Reporters' woes

At the same time, however, I understand the difficulties that reporters and editors often have to go through in the preparation and editing of news reports that involve Muslims.

It is not easy to write a story that gives information in the right context without appearing to denigrate or put in an unfavorable light the subjects of the report. Or telling it like it is straight from the police blotter or statements of the witnesses without giving the impression that the cultural identity of the persons involved is material to or indicative of the crime committed.

For example, if the event reported happened in a Muslim community and Muslim and non-Muslim parties are involved in opposite positions, the reporter cannot avoid describing the place where the incident happened. But with regard to the parties, how will he describe them without engaging in some form of cultural profiling?

As suggested by the reader, the reporter can simply spell out the names of the persons involved and let the readers draw their own conclusions. However, writing the covering headline of the article could pose some problems. With the limited space, the reporter or editor has to come up with a headline that summarizes the substance of the news without mentioning the word Muslim.

A lot of literary or journalistic expertise and balancing will have to go into the process of ensuring that the news report is accurate, written in the context in which the event happened, and without showing any shade of cultural or religious bias in the body and headline.

Writing "politically correct" articles about our Muslim brothers and sisters requires a conscious effort by the reporters and editors to thoroughly review their drafts (once, twice or thrice) to make sure objectionable portions or slants are removed. It's not easy. But certainly it is doable.

Perhaps, the readers may have other ideas on how to approach this problem. The *INQUIRER* will welcome suggestions from its corps of unnamed critics and part-time proofreaders on this matter.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



DECS had no official part in Marcos celebration

THANK you for calling my attention to the reported "private commemoration by the Marcos family of the dictator's death anniversary rites." The news item being of no personal interest, I missed reading the article altogether. But we have requested Regional Director Remedios Taguba to ascertain the facts and participation of Supt. Ligaya Miguel and we will get back to you on the matter. To our best information, there is no official participation of the department in the affair.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports however, has a policy of telling the truth and living by the truth of Philippine history. Our textbook review is looking into lessons of Philippine history based on the ideals of freedom and the "noble impulses" of the Filipino race. We will persevere in this and when we spot distortions of fact or values, we will make the corrections.

There is another policy issue. A minority among our people somehow believe that former President Marcos served the country well. From where I sit, they were wrong

but their leaders have campaigned and been elected on that basis. We will appreciate then your advice on whether the DECS should intrude into these political beliefs.

History must not suppress any fact of the Marcos regime—the questioned medals of valor, the violations of human rights, the legendary theft, the politicization of the Armed Forces. All these must appear in the history books in the hope that the Filipino people will avoid a repeat. For now, however, we are studying the appropriate action of the DECS on these intimate celebrations. We are open to advice on this.

The challenge to democracy is in demonstrating that freedom develops superior character, forges superior will to sacrifice, to serve the people's weal.

In various speeches I refer to Marcos as the most intelligent president elected to build a free society thereafter exercising power to deprive the Filipino people of their liberties. I also mention the most popularly elected president on a platform against poverty, even now being tried for the crime of



plunder. I believe the Filipino people are poor because many of our leaders have betrayed them. As Francisco Balagtas stated, "Sa loob at labas ng bayan kong sawi, kaluluha'y siyang nangyayaring hari (Inside and outside my suffering country, treachery is often the king)."

There are those however, who believe differently and the strength of democracy lies in our ability to heed plural opinion and tolerate diversity. The leadership we need must show simple lives, deep commitment to our people and superior service to the nation.—RAUL S. ROCCO, secretary, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Biggest privatization project now biggest rip-off

THE MALICIOUS and rather arbitrary increase in water rates of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) scheduled to begin on Oct. 15 is going to swamp consumers with an additional economic burden at a time when most Filipinos are trying to stay afloat amid the worldwide economic slump.

This move will open the floodgates for abuse of concession agreements at the expense of the consuming public. This will set a dangerous precedent.

The adjustment is being made within the context of an amendment of the concession agreement and not just something which could have been done through the one-time extraordinary price adjustment or the so-called EPA mechanism which is provided for in the existing contract.

The amendment provides for an accelerated and automatic recovery of not just foreign exchange losses from August 1997 to December 2000 but future foreign exchange losses of the MWSI. This will result in a triple whammy. The first blow will come on Oct. 16,

2001, the second blow will be on Jan. 1, 2001 and the third blow will be delivered in the second quarter of 2002 in the form of a foreign currency differential adjustment. According to this scheme, the MWSI will be making quarterly adjustments of its water rates in accordance with fluctuations in foreign exchange rates starting from Jan. 1, 2002 throughout the life of the concession agreement. This is out and out Auto-Cera which they just renamed.

Probably the most important point is that the context of the adjustment does not preclude any and all other firms claiming to be providing public goods and services from seeking a similar arrangement with government where their foreign exchange losses will be automatically recovered from consumers.

This is a mockery of the privatization policy of the government. Is it assumed that when a firm is privatized, its risks, like foreign exchange losses, can be automatically passed on to consumers? There are other ways of address-

ing the MWSI problem. The firm should share in the burden of the losses rather than passing them on 100 percent to the consumers because that is part of the risk that it assumes. There should also be greater transparency in the process. Otherwise, firms like the MWSI and even the Manila Water Corp. Inc. (MWCI) can be sloppy with their finances since the amended concession agreement ensures that their losses can be automatically recovered.

The root of the problem here is the nature of the regulatory office which is a creature of the concession agreement. It is hostage to the whims and caprices of the concessionaires. There is a need to institutionalize and strengthen the regulatory office by legislation and to ensure that it remains independent and faithful to the public interest.

The biggest water service privatization project in the world is turning out to be the biggest rip-off of consumers.—REP. LORETTA ANNA P. ROSALES, Akbayan Party List

Philpost to probe delayed mail delivery

THIS has reference to the letter complaint of Fr. Jose G. Ingaran of Guibang, Zamboanga, which was published on Sept. 1, 2001.

Please be informed that we immediately referred the matter to our regional office in Tuguegarao City for investigation and possible disciplinary action against the responsible postal personnel.

Normally, it takes only three days to deliver intra-regional ordinary mail unless the address is in a far-flung barangay, in which case coordination with barangay officials and our local post office is required and additional delivery time is needed. In such cases, delay is understandable.

But if the matter is a special postal service as in the present instance,

the delay constitutes serious and intolerable negligence and therefore it calls for a speedy investigation and appropriate action.—TIRSO N. PAGLICAWAN JR., chief, Media and Public Affairs, Office for External Relations, Philippine Postal Corp., 3rd floor, Central Office Bldg., Liwasang Bonifacio, 1000 Manila

Free text from 100 to zero

SOMETHING went wrong with the scheduled monthly free text given by Globe to its subscribers. My cellular phone number ends with the number 8 and I was supposed to receive my free text on the 20th of last month. I checked out my load on Sept. 20 in the morning and it was only P26. That evening, I checked it out again, and it was only P10. The following morning, it was only P5. That same evening it was only P1.50.

I called up 7301000 and I was told by one Bobby Bongalan that the updating of previous text is the reason there is continuous deductions on my load. I said that was beside the point; I was supposed to receive my automatic free text on the 20th, and it was already two days delayed. What if I used my prevailing load and it became empty? Would I still receive my free text? Later, I received three messages

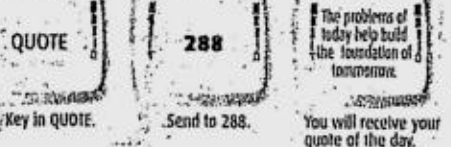
and replied to them. The following morning, I tried to send a message but couldn't. My phone said, "Stop—check operator service." I can't send a message anymore. I checked my load and it was zero!

Now where is my free text? What happened to the scheduled cycle of free text by Globe? From 150 to 100 to zero text!!!!—JOSE RUEL P. SAN JUAN, 10 Paramdam St., Taytay, Rizal

And now for some real words of wisdom.

Start your day with an inspirational quote on your SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text cell phone. If you are using a Zed SIM card, go to the menu, click on TODAY, go to QUOTE then follow the instructions on your screen.

For keywords of other Zed services, type ZEDS and send to 288. P2.50 per quote.



Firm pays SSS delinquencies

THIS is in reference to the letter of Rodrigo Serquina in the Aug. 14 issue of the INQUIRER. Serquina complained about the alleged Social Security System inaction on the non-remittance complaint filed by their union against Allied Metals Inc.

According to our Novaliches branch, Allied Metals has submitted checks amounting to P2,138,841.60 to settle contribution

and salary loan repayment delinquencies from January to December 2000. The company has issued anew post-dated checks amounting to P1,252,984.97 to cover delinquencies from January to August 2001.

The SSS has not filed any case against Allied Metals since it has paid these delinquencies through post-dated checks. Presently, the

SSS is awaiting for additional checks to cover penalties amounting to P582,201.69 for the period starting from January 1997 to January 2000.

The company is also reconciling their records with the Novaliches branch's member loans department concerning the salary and calamity loan delinquencies of its separated employees.

The SSS has sent separate letters

to Serquina on Aug. 7 and Aug. 27 to update him on his employer's case.

For further details, we request Serquina and other members of the union to coordinate with our branch in Novaliches.—JOEL P. PALACIOS, assistant vice president, Media Affairs Department, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.

Celebrating its 17th Annual Convention
12-13 October 2001, EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Hotel

Theme: "Current Trends in Cancer Management: A Multidisciplinary Approach"

MESSAGES

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to The Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc. on the celebration of its 17th Annual Convention.

I commend The Philippine Society of Oncologists for its continuing efforts to improve and support the health of the oncology practice in the country. Your organization's numerous efforts have helped Philippine medical practitioners keep abreast of current trends in their profession, remain competitive and become better health service providers for our people.

The momentous event with the theme, "Current Trends in Cancer Management: A Multidisciplinary Approach" manifests your organization's unwavering commitment towards the advancement of cancer research and treatment in order to engender a cancer-free Philippine society. This altar will foster among our country's physicians, a stronger dedication towards excellence in ensuring healthier and more productive Filipinos.

We stand to prosper as a people and as a country if every Filipino is given access to quality health care. I entrust your organization to help in achieving this noble objective so that the task of giving more opportunities to our people can be realized.

I wish the success of this convention and urge your continue active participation to nation building. Let us work together in steering our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

My warmest greetings to the Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc. on the holding of its 17th Annual Convention on October 12-13, 2001.

Lifestyle diseases rank among the most prevalent emerging and re-emerging diseases in the country today. Cancer, largely considered as a lifestyle disease continues to claim the lives of an increasing number of Filipinos. At present, the country's health leading cause of death happens to be malignant neoplasms.

While the complete eradication of most cancers escapes current medical knowledge, it is a comforting thought that almost a third of all these malignant new growths is curable if detected early enough to allow prompt treatment to be properly undertaken.

The theme, "Current Trends in Cancer Management: A Multidisciplinary Approach" highlights the importance of consolidating efforts of all stakeholders in identifying the appropriate management of cancer cases and providing the necessary tools in reducing the prevalence of cancer in the country.

The Department of Health on its part, has initiated programs to reduce the burden of cancer in the country. It has embarked on a nationwide campaign on cancer prevention and control through early detection as well as the promotion of healthy lifestyle to different sectors of society.

Let us all work towards eliminating cancer in our country. Let us join hands to achieve our vision of quality health for all Filipinos.

Mabuhay!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

OFFICERS and COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Miriam Joy C. Calugas, M.D., Vice President and 17th Annual Chairman

Elizabeth Y. Arcandiana-Nupia, M.D., Secretary and Chairman Membership Committee

Christina F. Palma, M.D., Treasurer and Chairman Program & Invitations

Augusto M. Manalo, M.D., Immediate Past President and Chairman Ethics Committee

Luzviminda A. Salomon-Reoing, M.D., Assistant Secretary and Chairman Registration

Rafael S. Cusano, M.D., Council Member and Chairman Exhibits Committee

Devina B. Esteban, M.D., Council Member and Chairman Mid-Year Convention

Francis O. Javier, M.D., Council Member and Chairman Socials Committee

Juvelita L. Lim, M.D., Council Member and Chairman Publications Committee

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Gloria R. Cristobal-Luna, M.D., Seminars & Research

Antonio H. Villalon, M.D., Health

Gil S. Gonzalez, M.D., Seminar Program

Gil M. Vicente, M.D., Publicity

Corazon A. Higzon, M.D., Research

AWARDEES

Teodoro P. Nuguid, M.D., Outstanding Oncologist

Antonia G. Cruz-Rosa, M.D., Outstanding Teacher

Tomas P. Marabita, Jr., M.D., Outstanding Researcher

Hon. Jose N. Bellosillo, Keynote Speaker

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Pre-convention Symposium by Roche Philippines "Targeting Emesis Control with Care" Rudolph M. Navari, M.D., Ph.D. Associate Dean, College of Science Dep't. of Pre-professional Studies Director, Waltham Cancer Research Center, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, U.S.A.		1:50-2:10	"Implications of the Human Genome Sequencing on Cancer Diagnosis and Therapy"
		2:10-2:30	"Immunohistochemistry in Cancer Management"
		3:10-5:30	Tumor Board CME Grant from Astra Zeneca
		6:00	Fellowship Night (Marketlink Pharmachemie)
DAY 1 AM		DAY 2 AM	
7:00 AM	Registration	7:00 AM	Registration
OPENING CEREMONIES		7:00-8:00	Breakfast Symposium II CME Grant from Secura "Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization" (FISH)
9:00-9:05	National Anthem InnoXox Choir	8:00-10:00	PSO-Unilab Research Forum
9:05-9:10	Invocation InnoXox Choir	Cancer Update II	
9:10-9:20	Welcome Remarks Domingo E. Garzon, M.D. Chairman Scientific Program	10:00-10:20	"New Epidemiologic Patterns in Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma"
9:20-9:30	Opening Remarks Nicolas T. Salang, Jr., M.D. President Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.	10:20-10:40	"Updates on Lung Cancer"
9:30-9:35	Introduction of keynote speaker Miriam Joy C. Calugas, M.D. Vice-President and Over-all Chairman Organizing Committee, 17th Annual Convention	10:40-11:00	"Breast Cancer"
9:35-9:50	Keynote Address Hon. Josue N. Bellosillo Senior Justice, Supreme Court	11:00-11:20	"Malignant Lymphoma"
9:50-9:55	Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation to Keynote Speaker PSO Officers	DAY 2 PM	
9:55-10:00	Presidential Award to Mr. Enrique M. Granda Senior Vice President & COO United Laboratories, Inc.	11:35-12:05	Lunch Symposium Satellite I CME Grant from SciClone "Role of Immune Modulator in Oncology"
10:00-10:15	Presentation of New PSO Fellows	12:15-1:30	Lunch Symposium Satellite II CME Grant from Biomedex, Inc. "Updates in Gastric Cancer"
10:15-10:30	Opening of Exhibits Hon. Josue N. Bellosillo Nicolas T. Salang, Jr., M.D. PSO Officers and Past Presidents	Cancer Update III	
	Antonio H. Villalon, M.D. Aileen Riego-Javier, M.D. Masters of Ceremony	1:30-1:50	"Updates in Colorectal Cancer"
10:45-11:15	SPECIAL LECTURE CME Grant from Schering Plough Biotech Division "Radiosurgery in Brain Metastases"	1:50-2:10	"Ovarian Cancer"
DAY 1 PM		2:10-2:30	"Prostatic Cancer"
12:00-1:30	Lunch & Business Meeting (Schering Plough Biotech Div)	2:30-2:50	Hematologic Malignancies "Signal Transduction Inhibition May Change The Way We Treat Malignancies"
Cancer Update I: Diagnostics		3:20-3:45	Cancer Update IV: Supportive Management
1:30-1:50	"The Uses of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in Oncology"	3:45-4:15	CME Grant from GPME/ Brainlab "The Role of Advanced Practice Nurse in Oncology Practice"
		4:15-4:35	"Management of Radiation Therapy-Related Complications"
		4:35-4:55	"Management of Complications from Chemotherapy"
		4:55-5:15	"Polypharmacy in Cancer Pain Management"
		6:00	Closing Ceremonies Dinner Ball and Induction Ceremonies (Yamanouchi)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The WORLD

LUVIERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Money trail connects hijackers to al-Qaida



RECOVERY workers stand on the rim of a floodlit hole being dug by a backhoe as huge girders from the north World Trade Center tower stick up from the ground like stalagmites in New York, Oct. 6. The last federal rescue crew left the site on Saturday, leaving New York officials to continue the nearly month-old effort to locate nearly 5,000 bodies buried in the rubble.

WASHINGTON—The money trail left by 19 hijackers, who took part in the deadliest terrorist act on US soil, has allowed US investigators to establish a strong link between them and the al-Qaida terrorist network, The Washington Post reported Sunday.

The investigators have been able to trace transfers of thousands of dollars from hijacking leader Mohammed Atta to al-Qaida's chief financial lieutenant in the Middle East days before the New York and Washington attacks, according to the report, which cites senior government officials.

Al-Qaida is led by Saudi-born Islamic militant Osama bin Laden, who has taken refuge in Afghanistan.

US officials have also traced suspicious deposits to Atta from Hamburg, where he previously was believed to be part of a student terrorist cell, and Middle Eastern countries, according to the Post.

The officials believe al-Qaida chieftains poured into the plot at least \$500,000, the report said.

Preparations for the attacks began last year, when \$100,000 was transferred into a US bank account from the United Arab Emirates, according to The Post.

The transfer may have been arranged by the chief al-Qaida financial lieutenant, Mustafa Muhammad Ahmed, said the report, quoting a source familiar with the investigation.

"This was a very well-funded operation, so the finances are going to be a real key for us," the paper quotes a senior official as saying. "It's a better record of their movements than anything else."

AFP

Bin Laden reported to have 4 doubles

DUBAI—Osama bin Laden, the prime US terror suspect, uses doubles to confuse western intelligence agencies trying to track him down, an Afghan opposition leader said in an interview published Sunday.

"According to our latest information he is in Jalalabad (eastern Afghanistan) but we know that he has several doubles who move around in convoys to cover up and cause confusion," said Ahmed Wali Massoud, charged with affairs for the Afghan opposition in London.

He told Asharq al-Awsat newspaper, "Several months ago, we received reports about the presence of four look-alikes of Osama in four different places in Afghanistan at the same time."

Massoud, brother of commander Ahmad Shah Massoud who was killed on Sept. 9, just two days before the attacks on New York and Washington blamed on bin Laden, said the latter had become "the true leader of the Taliban."

"Since 1998 he has tightened his grip on the Taliban security services and their money,"

Massoud said, adding that US strikes on bin Laden were now inevitable since Kabul refused to hand him over.

The Afghan opposition would support any US military action in Afghanistan "aimed at destroying the heavy weapons with which Pakistan supplied the Taliban," he said.

"But that does not mean that we want the Americans to set up bases in our country with a view to a permanent presence," Massoud said.

Washington and its allies should "support the legitimate government of Afghanistan as soon as the operation against terrorists is over and help it to rebuild the infrastructure and the economy of the country."

Most countries still recognize the Afghan government of Burhanuddin Rabbani, ousted by the Taliban in 1996. He is backed by opposition forces known as the Northern Alliance, previously commanded by Ahmad Shah Massoud, which control about 10 percent of Afghanistan.

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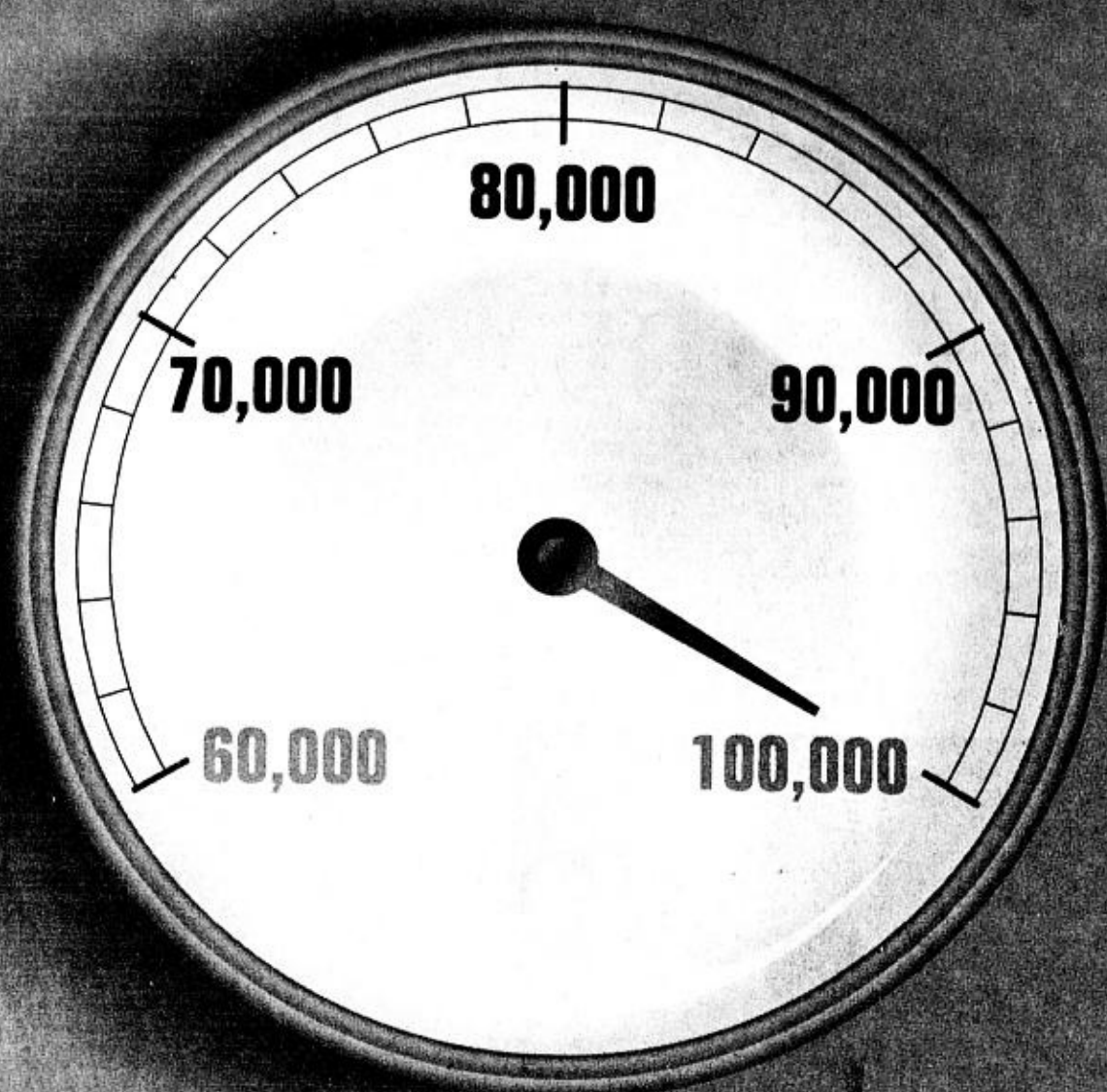


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PREPARING FOR DOUBLE TEN

Taiwanese primary school students perform Oct. 7 a traditional dance in front of the Presidential Palace during a rehearsal for the island's National Day on Oct. 10, or "Double Tenth Day."

Apparent suicide bombing kills 2 in Israel kibbutz

JERUSALEM—An Israeli and a Palestinian were killed Sunday when a bomb exploded next to a car in an apparent suicide attack, in defiance of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's order to refrain from attacks against Israelis.

The car exploded and burned on a road leaving Kibbutz Shulhot, an Israeli agricultural collective about eight kilometers from the West Bank. Israeli radio reports said a kibbutz member was driving the car, and the Palestinian set off the bomb next to the vehicle, killing himself and the Israeli.

"There was an explosion and what I can tell you at the moment was it looks as if it was a car bomb," kibbutz driver Haim Perlstein told Israel Radio from the scene. "The car is upside down and burned out."

Police spokespersons said they were checking the reports and would say only that two people were killed in the blast.

During a year of Palestinian-Israeli fighting, there have been dozens of bombings aimed at Israelis, including explosives-laden cars and suicide bombers. Dozens of Israelis have been killed and hundreds wounded in the blasts.

Meanwhile, Israeli tanks and troops remained in Palestinian neighborhoods in the West Bank town of Hebron. Israeli forces moved in to two areas early Friday after almost daily gunfire at three

Jewish enclaves in the town. On Saturday, tanks and bulldozers moved into another part of Hebron. Two Palestinians were killed Saturday in exchanges of fire with Israeli forces there.

In a rare public criticism of Palestinian militants, Yasser Arafat's Cabinet on Friday demanded militants stop attacking Israel, saying they have violated the Mideast truce and damaged Palestinian interests.

In a further sign of Palestinian efforts to calm tensions, on Saturday Palestinian police Saturday at least two militants wanted by Israel in what they said was a new policy to rein in anti-Israeli groups.

Still, several days of heavy fighting have greatly undermined a Mideast cease-fire announced 10 days ago after both sides came under considerable pressure by the United States.

Neither Israel nor the Palestinians wants to be blamed for the failure of the truce, and the Palestinian statement appeared intended to show that Arafat remained supportive of the cease-fire.

The United States is trying to add moderate Arab nations to its anti-terrorism coalition after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington, and is concerned that a flare-up of fighting between Israel and the Palestinians could sabotage the effort. AP



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'Foreign objects' found in drowned Russian airliner

SOCHI, Russia—Investigators probing the mysterious crash of a Russian airliner into the Black Sea two days earlier said on Saturday they had found what they call "foreign objects" amid the wreckage at the scene of the accident.

"After analyzing the fragments of the plane we have found objects which have no relation to the construction of the plane. We are continuing to try and identify these objects," said the head of the Russian investigation team, Vladimir Rushailo.

At least 76 people, mostly Israelis, died when a Sibir Airlines Tu-154 plunged into the Black Sea on Thursday about 180 km from the Russian resort of Sochi under still unexplained circumstances.

Investigators say the plane, which was flying from Tel Aviv to Siberia, was destroyed by an explosion.

Russia has launched an inquiry to determine if the explosion was caused by a terrorist attack but there is speculation that a Ukrainian missile accidentally shot down the airliner during a military exercise in the Crimea.

Despite robust denials from Ukraine's president and defense minister, the country's prime minister Anatoly Kinakh said he had not ruled out an accidental shooting.

Russian Defense Minister Igor Ivanov later said neither he nor President Vladimir Putin were satisfied with Ukrainian reports that a missile had nothing to do with downing the plane.

"All the possibilities (of the origin of the crash) have been studied, including a possible link between the catastrophe and Ukrainian military maneuvers," he told RTR television.

Documents provided by Ukrainian officials saying no missiles were fired across the airplane's flight path "did not satisfy the president because they were incomplete," he said.

Ivanov added that he had sent an "urgent message" to his Ukrainian counterpart Olexander Kuzmuk to provide information on a missile he says was fired four minutes before the plane crashed.

US authorities have also said they believe a Ukrainian missile was involved.

Chief Russian investigator Rushailo said several of the corpses carried injuries, which were being examined.

Israel said it would not consider Ukraine had committed an "act of aggression" even if it was found the crash was caused by a Ukrainian missile.

"Even if it emerges that it was an error by the Ukrainian military... it would not be considered an act of aggression or hostility," Zeev Ben Arieh, an official at the Israeli Embassy in Kiev, said in an interview with weekly Zerkalo Nedeli. AFP

Nobel awards mark 100th anniversary

STOCKHOLM—This year's Nobel Prize season kicks off Monday with the announcement of the winner of the Medicine Prize, as speculation mounts that symbolic winners will be honored to mark the awards' 100th anniversary.

As always, names of possible winners for the two most prestigious prizes, peace and literature, have circulated in recent weeks, but the identities of the actual laureates are always a well-guarded secret and leaks to the media are rare.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is rumored to top the list of 136 nominees for the Peace Prize, while French poet Yves Bonnefoy, US authors Norman Mailer and Joyce Carol Oates, South Africa's JM Coetzee and VS Naipaul of Trinidad are all said to be in the running for the literary award.

The suspense will end next week when the winners' names are revealed.

Monday's Medicine Prize announcement will be followed by the prize for physics on Tuesday, while the prizes for chemistry and economics will both be awarded on Wednesday.

The date for the Literature Prize has not yet been officially set, but it is traditionally announced only 48 hours in advance and usually falls on a Thursday.

The grand finale, the much-anticipated and prestigious Peace Prize, will round off the week with an announcement Friday.

On Sept. 28, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said it had made its selection for the 2001 Peace Prize laureate.

Stein Tonnesson, the head of the Oslo Peace Research Institute (PRIO), suggested the committee had likely chosen a symbolic winner who "pulls together" a century of Nobels, and predicted the laureate would "definitely" be Kofi Annan.

The Nobel Prizes were first handed out in 1901, in line with the last will and testament of Swedish inventor and scholar Alfred Nobel, who created the prizes for "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind."

To mark the centennial, this year's Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo on December 10 is to be attended by most of the living past recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, including Mikhail Gorbachev, the Dalai Lama and Shimon Peres.

In addition to Annan, other favorites for this year's prize are the Red Cross, whose founder Jean Henri Dunant was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, and the UN war crimes tribunal.

AFP

AIDS vaccine available within 10 years, says US health expert

MELBOURNE, Australia—Researchers are optimistic a vaccine for HIV/AIDS will be available within 10 years, but it's unlikely to be fully effective against all strains of the virus, a US health expert said Sunday.

Margaret Johnston, Associate Director of AIDS vaccines at the National Institutes of Health in the United States, said there were dozens of vaccine prototypes under development around the world, with some 9,000 people participating in clinical trials.

"There's never been more optimism than there is now that an HIV vaccine can be identified," Johnston told delegates to the 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Melbourne.

"However, we don't know what it will look like just yet. We don't know how it

will act. Clinical trials will take a long time and it's likely the first (vaccines) ... will not be 100 percent effective," she added.

Some 36 million people around the world are living with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS, according to the United Nations AIDS agency, UNAIDS. Since the epidemic began about 20 years ago, AIDS has killed almost 22 million people.

Johnston said the most advanced vaccine now being tested is GP-120, developed by the California-based VaxGen biotech company.

The product is made from a protein that forms the outer surface of the HIV virus and stimulates antibodies to neutralize or stop the virus from spreading.

Now being tested in Thailand, North America and the Netherlands, results could be available as early as next month. If

they are promising, another larger trial over 3 years would be conducted, she said.

"The very soonest we can have a vaccine is maybe four to five years from now and that's wildly optimistic—more likely in the real world (it) will take seven to nine or 10 years," Johnston said.

Johnston said it was anticipated a future vaccine would protect people from contracting HIV/AIDS and, when given to those who already have the virus, prevent its spread.

Production costs and pricing were difficult to estimate she said.

Costs would be increased by the need to license and buy patent rights, while manufacturing costs would depend on the vaccine design, Johnston said.

"For example, a DNA-based vaccine might be mass-produced at a cost of pen-

nies to dollars per dose. But a (more complex) vaccine that requires a more high-tech approach to manufacturing will likely cost tens of dollars if not \$100 or more to produce," she added.

Johnston said large organizations, such as the World Bank, should be encouraged to set up a purchase fund for the vaccine as an incentive for drug companies to produce it. The fund would need to have between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

Despite the inevitable production of an HIV/AIDS vaccine, it was important that the world community remain aware of other ways to prevent contracting the deadly virus, Johnston said.

"The need for education and reduction in risk-taking behaviors will remain a key component of prevention programs," she said. AP

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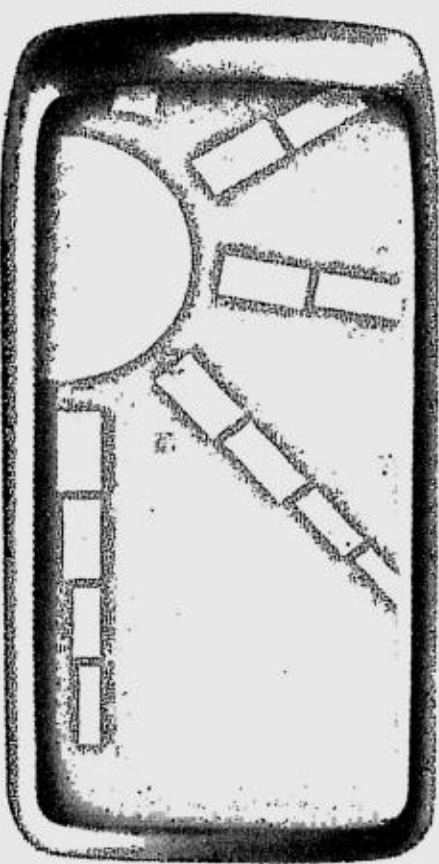
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Trial of Chavez slay suspects recommended

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—Finally, the wheels of justice have started grinding in the case of Army 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez, the Philippine Military Academy graduate who was found dead in her barracks in February.

Investigators of the military's Judge Advocate General found probable cause to try Chavez's three superiors before a general court martial.

Col. Fernando Guerrero, JAG pre-trial investigator, recommended the trial of Maj. Ramon Dizon, Maj. Ricardo Visaya and Capt. Domingo Campos for violating Section 96 (conduct unbecoming of an officer and

gentleman) and Section 97 (acts prejudicial to good order and military discipline) of the Articles of War. Also included in the charges is Army Private Mary Arvie Juanitas.

The recommendation was contained in an Aug. 30 progress report of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' inspector general to Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, AFP chief of staff.

Chavez, 23, a member of the PMA Sanghaya Class 2000 and native of this town, was found dead in her barracks at Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 9. She had a bullet wound in the chest. **Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Corpus asked to shed light on Pestaño death

By GERRY T. PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The family of the late Navy ensign Philip Andrew Pestaño is urging Army intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus to shed light on his earlier statement during a Senate hearing where he linked Philip's death to illegal drugs.

The Pestaño family said they would like to know if the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), headed by Corpus, had informa-

tion about the death of the Navy ensign six years ago.

In a statement, the family said they wondered if ex-agents Mary "Rosebud" Ong and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay also had personal knowledge about Philip's death but chose to remain silent "because it may incriminate them."

The family recalled that an intelligence report leaked to the media alleged that Philip's ship was carrying a large shipment of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

A personal aide of a high ranking Navy officer was said to be the "triggerman," the family said.

"That intelligence report came from someone in the intelligence community most likely from the Isafp," the family said.

Corpus earlier told a Senate committee looking into the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that Pestaño was murdered "because he was about to report that they had on board his ship a large shipment of shabu." He, however, did not elaborate.

Philip, then 23, was found dead with a single bullet wound in the head inside his cabin in the Navy vessel BRP Bacolod City in the morning of Sept. 27, 1985.

The Navy, the police and the National Bureau of Investigation declared his case as suicide based on the alleged suicide note he wrote.

But the Pestaño family expressed belief that Philip was murdered after he discovered the illegal loading of logs and drugs in the Navy ship.

The Senate, through its committees on justice and human rights and on national defense and security, had also declared Philip's case as murder.

"Although they all agreed that (their) findings that Philip was a victim of foul play, they said it is also a waste of time, money and government resources to determine who the murderers are. Meaning, they wanted us to conduct the investigation ourselves, and then bring the culprits to them. What a shame!" the family said in a statement.



PESTAÑO

Had there been a real inquiry into his death, the family lamented, the exposés of Ong and Mawanay would have been made much earlier and many would have saved from being hooked on illegal drugs.

The existence of narco-politics, which Corpus claimed is now starting to rule Philippine politics, would not have made inroads into the country's political system and gained strength, the family said.

Army pays for farmer's death

CAMP ALLEN, Baguio City—The Philippine Army paid P115,000 and awarded a college scholarship to the children of farmer Johnny Camareg, who was killed in a firefight between government soldiers and New People's Army rebels in Mt. Province last August.

Lt. Col. Juanito Dalmas, commanding officer of the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion based in Lagangilang, Abra, said the money was a form of "financial assistance" and not settlement for the "wrongful death" of Camareg, as many of his tribesmen in Sadanga, Mt. Province claimed.

Dalmas said the settlement was reached through the traditional peace pact or *bodong* between Army officials and Sadanga elders on Oct. 2.

The *bodong* was signed between Army representatives Dalmas, Col. Franklin Estrada and Maj.

Benjamin Pooten and Sadanga elders, Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinas, Sadanga Mayor Fausto Fagto and Councilor Francis Dangiwan.

Dalmas said the *bodong* was finished in three hours, a record time for such a settlement, which sometimes takes weeks or years to settle.

"We made it clear that what happened was a legitimate encounter, prompted by the presence of the NPA in the area at that time. Unfortunately, Camareg was in the other side of the encounter," Dalmas said.

The military searched the area after the Aug. 9 encounter and found a rifle supposedly owned by Camareg. His body was found two days later, on Aug. 11, and covered with leaves.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Kidnapping gang demands immunity

COTABATO CITY—A kidnapping gang that is holding a Chinese national in Central Mindanao is asking Malacañang for immunity from charges in exchange for its victim's release.

However, Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, quickly rejected the demand made by the Pentagon, an emerging kidnap-for-ransom group, which operates in Cotabato, South Cotabato, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces and in the cities of General Santos, Kidapawan and Cotabato.

The Pentagon is still holding engineer Zhang Zhongyi of the China Import-Export Technologies, the contractor of the P3 billion Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project in Carmen, Cotabato who was snatched during an attempt to free his brother, Zhongquiang, on Aug. 12.

Zhongquiang and another companion, Xue Xing, were executed by the group as government troops closed in on the terrorists. Wang Li, another Chinese national, managed to escape.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Laag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Layosa, PDI Research/10/08/01

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Schedule of Free Seminars at PhilTRONICS 2001

DATE/TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
10 October		
11:00-12:00 noon	Solid Waste Mgmt. in the Electronics Industry by: Inca Plastics	Mr. Edgardo Cayton
2:00-3:00 p.m.	EK Pumps Features Seminar by: Inca Chemical Pumps	Mr. Norikazu Nishi
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Vacuum Technology with Vacuum Electronics and Suction Cups by: Pisco Pneumatic Equipment Ideas (Eum) Systems & Control Components by: Idco Termi	Engr. Mel Vicensio Mr. Ronnie Lee
11 October		
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Automatic Optical Inspection X-Ray Inspection by: Mafren Inc.	Ms. Annie Feng Mr. Ch Liu
11:30-12:30 p.m.	Hibex MDA ICT Machine by: Von Roll Isola Asia Ltd. (Tech Plus Inds)	Mr. Wong Peng Sang
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Leica Digital Camera with Imaging System by: Mafren Enterprise	Mr. Dick Foo Mr. Herbert Funtanar
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Vision System for On-line Inspection of IC Packages by: Benchmark Systems Pte. Ltd.	Mr. Kish Raghavan Mr. Senthil Nathan
12 October		
11:00-12:00 noon	Ultrasonic Cleaning/Welding by: Branson Ultrasonics	Branson Singapore
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Cleval Automatic "Flow Control Valve" ABS Pumps by: Tytrade International	Mr. David Alexander/ John Stinfield
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Factory Automation Solution by: Yagawa Phils. Inc.	Mr. Jonathan Esperida

Schedule of Free Seminars at Enviro-Tech Philippines 2001

DATE/TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
October 10	1:30-4:30 p.m.	Technology Presentation Part I
October 11	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Technical Seminar co-organized by WEAP
	1:30-4:30 p.m.	Technology Presentation Part 2

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PMA cadets, officers sign covenant to fight abuses

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Give us some sleep, Philippine Military Academy cadets told themselves and their superiors on Monday in the so-called "Sundial Covenant" against bullying, mediocrity and dishonor.

"For the first time, and I think the instructors will be pleased to hear this, the cadets have proposed concrete measures envisioned to minimize dozing in the classroom," Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra, PMA superintendent, said in front of the PMA sundial at Fort del Pilar here.

The covenant, noted among others that the cadets "recognize the established physiological requirement for eight hours' uninterrupted sleep a day, in order for the human body to perform at an optimum level,

physically as well as mentally."

It was written by the class presidents and other officers to curb the so-called triple threat of bullying, mediocrity and dishonor in the academy.

"Therefore, the members of the ruling class shall ensure that cadets are not deprived of this basic need from taps (sleeping time) to reveille (wake up time), due to any unauthorized orders or activities," the covenant added.

It should be noted that a cadet died last March after allegedly being beaten one night by his upperclassmen. Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo died after being hit in his abdomen. Two of the four suspects are now detained at the Baguio City Jail.

"This covenant empowers the cadets to take the initiative against nagging issues that have laid waste the careers of many cadet and decimated their ranks for far too

long," De Veyra said.

He said the cadets have come up with seven major steps to stop bullying, mediocrity and dishonor.

This includes the establishment of a floor inspector for every company who will conduct random inspections at any moment and will report all violations to the cadet corps.

Company commanders will also conduct "strip-down inspections" of first year cadets or plebes supposedly to ensure that there are no hidden welts or scars from hazing. A protection program for all victims will also be put into force with a fourth year or first class cadet put in charge for every victim. Bullying cadets will be charged within two weeks.

To curb mediocrity particularly in academics, study groups will be set for failing cadets. The buddy system will also be established for deficient cadets.

E. Visayas inflation highest in RP

TACLOBAN CITY—The inflation rate in Eastern Visayas continues to rise.

The National Statistics Office regional office here said the region's inflation rate in August, posted at 7.65 percent, was the highest among the country's 16 regions.

The region's inflation rate was pegged at 6.6 percent in June. It increased to 7.4 percent in July and 7.65 percent in August. But the national inflation rate, the NSO said, has slowed to 6.3 percent in August.

The NSO said the region's inflation rate continued to swell despite decreases in the prices of some food items like corn, eggs, fruits and vegetables and two other commodity groups like services and fuel, light and water.

Among the region's six provinces, Southern Leyte posted the highest inflation rate at 9.9 percent and the highest growth in inflation from its previous month's rate of 9.4 percent.

The inflation rate in Samar dropped from 4.7 percent in July to 3.7 percent in August. Eastern Samar also experienced a reduction of inflation rate from 6.2 percent to 5.8 percent.

The NSO also revealed that the purchasing power of the peso in Eastern Visayas also stumbled to 57 centavos in August from 60 centavos in the previous month.

This meant that one peso in 1994 (the base year) was valued at 57 centavos in August this year.

Eastern Visayas still ranked fourth in the country with the lowest peso purchasing value. Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

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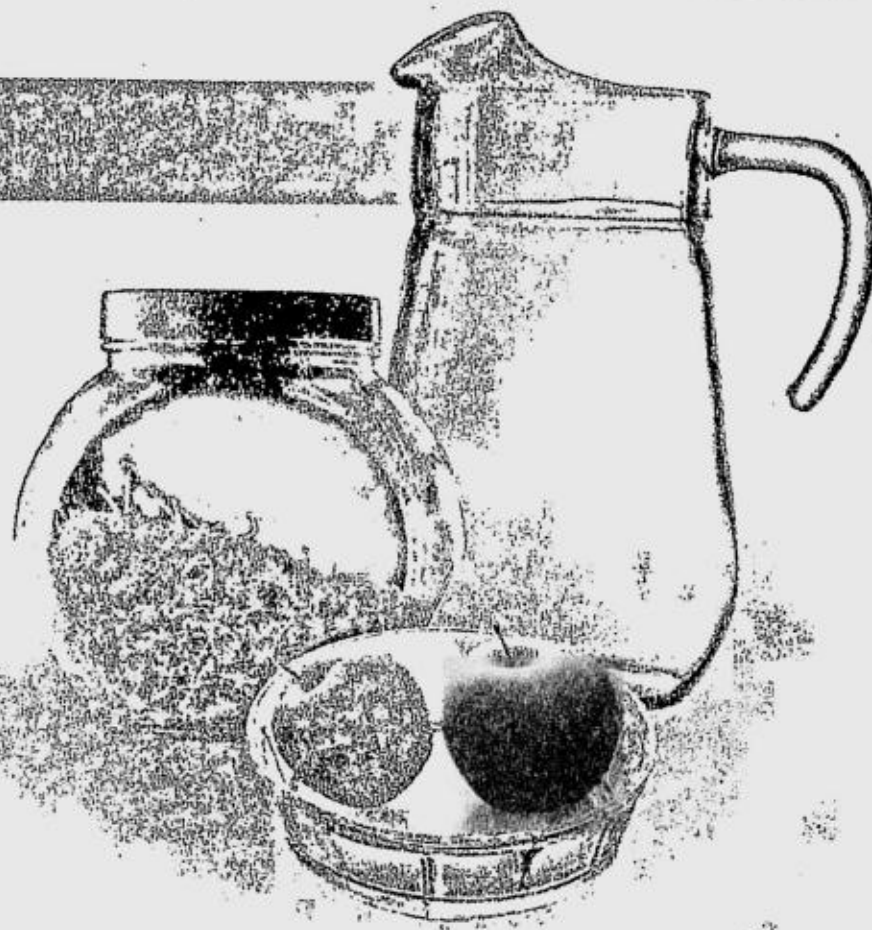
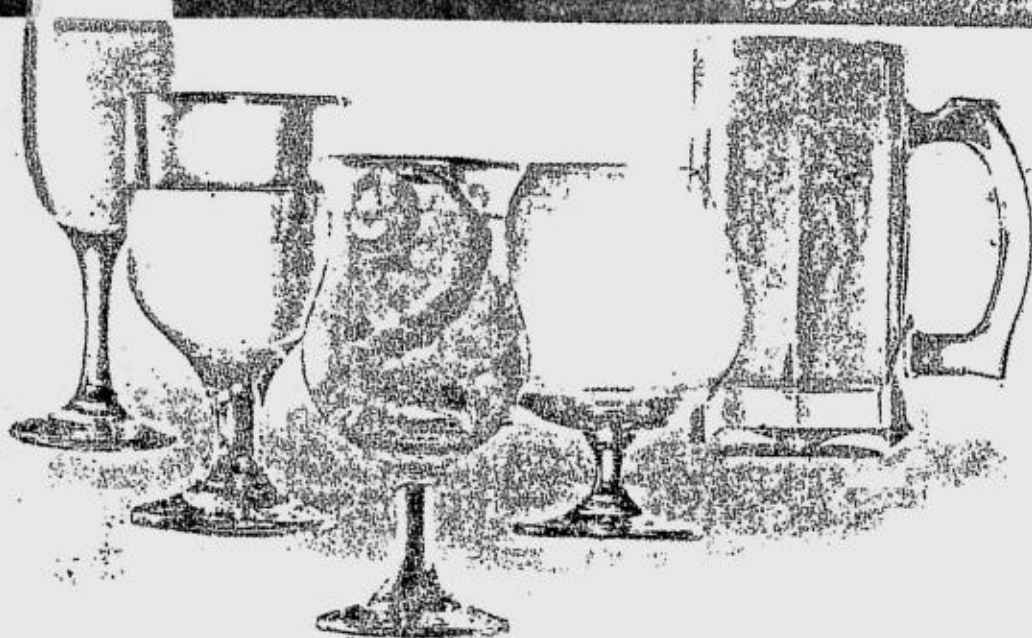


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More suspects slain as new drug war vowed

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DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he is pushing himself to the limit and would like to end the drug menace here by December.

As if taking a cue, suspected vigilante members struck anew and gunned down suspected drug pushers one after the other.

The latest execution came on Wednesday. The killing brought to five the number of police characters killed in a span of one week here.

"I do not pity them (drug pushers). They deserve to die," Duterte said of the killings.

But he said he still believed that vigilante killings are not the answer to the city's drug problem.

He sought to clarify that his efforts to rid the city of drug pushers would be done in accordance with the law.

Duterte, perceived as the godfather of a group of vigilantes, even ordered the police to apprehend members of the Davao Death Squad and another emerging vigilante group, which calls itself Los Pepes, to prove he was not condoning acts of summarily executing suspected drug pushers.

But the city police itself admitted it does not have any clue as to who are the members of the two groups, if they ever existed.

Supt. Wilfredo Garcia said they are even starting to doubt whether there are really vigilante groups operating in the city.

He said the killings could be the handiwork of aggrieved relatives of people victimized by illegal drugs.

Davao City's drug problem, according to the

police, seems to have become complicated also because of the involvement of some police officers in the drug trade.

Duterte himself admitted that he got reports that at least five police officers are into the drug trade and have been using minors as couriers.

However, he said his campaign to end the drug problem by December does not put a distinction between uniformed personnel and civilians.

"The law is on my side," he said as he warned drug traffickers of his intensified anti-drug campaign.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, police regional director Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano admitted that some "top level" police officials close to Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson are still into the drug trade.

However, he said he is leaving the investigation to the Senate. He said he would try to solve the drug problem in his area of jurisdiction.

Earlier, Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil submitted to him a list of suspected drug lords and users among the police force here.

Matillano said he would give priority to the list and "if they (would) be found positive, we will take drastic action against them."

Palma Gil, for her part, said before a gathering of policemen here that "if given a chance to gun down drug addict policemen, I won't hesitate to do so."

She later admitted to the INQUIRER that her statement was a rhetorical way of urging erring cops to reform. **Anthony Allada and Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

3 seriously hurt in demolition

ROXAS CITY—Three persons were seriously injured when a demolition crew, armed with a court order, tried on Friday to eject 19 squatter-families at Sitio Paon in Barangay Dumulog here.

Now being treated for gunshot wounds at a hospital in this city were Giovanni Arrobag, 39; Eduardo Alicante, 51; and Evangelina Zacarias, 58. They took bullets from a .45 cal. pistol fired by a still unidentified man.

Arrobag suffered a gunshot wound in the back while Alicante was hit in the stomach. Zacarias was hit in the thigh. They were reported to be in critical conditions.

The three were members of protesting squatter-families who were ejected from a portion of a 4-hectare lot owned by Vilma Olano in Sitio Paon. Judge Edward Contreras and Judge Jeffrey Almalbis, both of the Municipal Circuit Trial Courts in Cities here, issued the ejection orders to the squatter-families.

Olano sued the squatters after they refused to

vacate her lot. The squatters reportedly refused to leave the property because they were not given any relocation site.

Court sheriffs William Beluso and Herman Abalayan, backed by some 10 policemen, served the demolition orders on the 19 squatter-families. Two truckloads of demolition crewmen reportedly hired by the Olano family started the demolition job as early as 8 a.m.

The protesting squatter-families resisted the demolition order by throwing stones at the policemen and the demolition crew, prompting the policemen to fire warning shots in the air.

Some residents later pointed to one Bongbong Aninang, a retired policeman and the brother-in-law of Vilma Olano, as the one who fired at the protesters.

Aninang denied the accusation, saying he was not armed at that time and that he was there only to supervise the demolition.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Army soldiers rescue NPA captive

MATI, Davao Oriental—Army troops rescued a man who was about to be executed by communist guerrillas in Compostela town in nearby Comval province for hacking a rebel leader, the military said.

Army Major Alexis Gopico, commander of the 8th Special Forces Battalion, said Rolando Villanueva, 42, was sentenced to die last week by a communist court for hacking the NPA leader who "stole" his wife.

Villanueva, a resident of Barangay Ngan, Compostela town, told newsmen here that on Sept. 9, at least 10 NPA

rebels went to their home and snatched his wife, Lucy, 38, upon the order of an NPA leader he failed to identify.

He said the rebels even offered him P20,000 in exchange for leaving his wife with the NPA leader.

Villanueva said after a week, the rebels, along with the commander, went back to him and threatened to harm him unless he leaves. However, he said he refused and instead hacked the leader of the group.

"Fortunately, the rebels did not kill me right away when I hacked their leader. They brought me to the mountain and there they hog-tied me. They then convened a kangaroo court and pronounced me guilty and set my execution. However, the Army chanced upon their camp where I was rescued," Villanueva said.

An ensuing firefight killed two of the rebels, which led to Villanueva's rescue, Gopico said. **Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

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Among the fifteen awardees are (from left) Manny Reyes, Crisostomo Gentic, Romeo Forbes Jr., Allan Mendoza, Roldan Ventura, Jerry Maninang, Tomas Arao, Ronnie Tres Reyes, Herbert Bermejo, Edralin Manila and Wilfredo Rufon.

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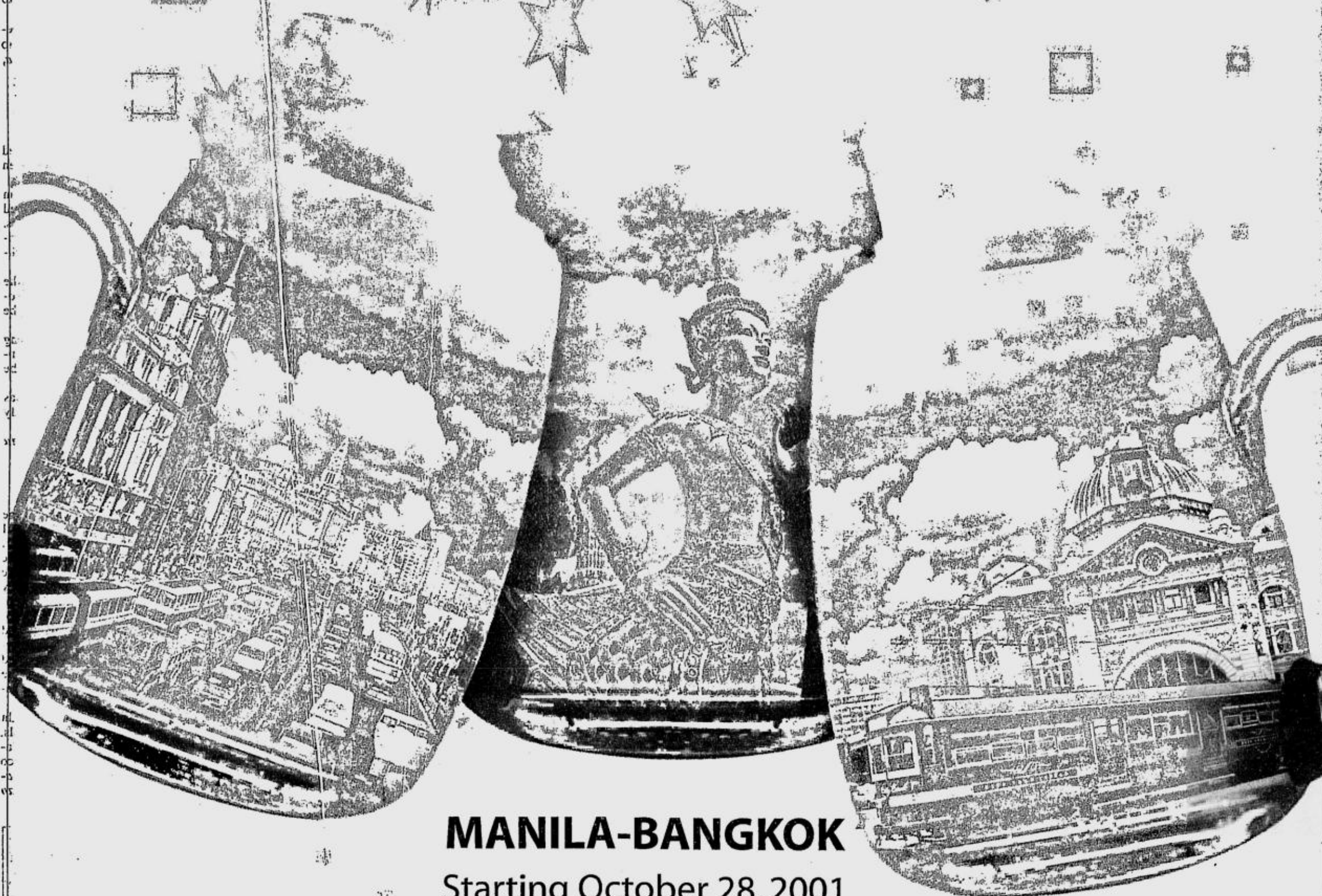
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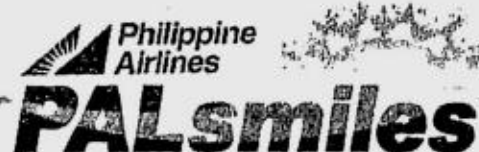
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Taliban beef up border defense; US troops arrive

(From page A1)

the larger, better-armed Taliban, but their fortunes have been bolstered since the Sept. 11 attacks with a decision by Russia to step up weapons shipments.

Opposition spokesperson Mohammad Ashraf Nadim claimed the alliance gained ground Saturday in fighting in the northern provinces of Balkh and Samaghan, which border Uzbekistan. The claims could not be independently verified.

Uzbekistan

On Saturday, a US-marked aircraft arrived in Uzbekistan one day after President Islam Karimov granted permission for the United States to use an Uzbek air base. A local police officer said three or four planes had already landed.

In Washington, Pentagon

spokesperson Jim Turner refused to comment on the report in accordance with the US policy of not discussing troop movements.

Uzbekistan has agreed to let the United States station troops on its soil but not to launch offensive operations. On Saturday, a senior Taliban official, Amir Khan Muttaqi, threatened to send troops into the Central Asian neighbor if that country participated in any US-led attack.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Saturday said plans were in place for a military strike against the Taliban.

"Things are coming into place, although the timing on any such action is a matter we must discuss with our close allies," Blair told reporters upon his return from a whirlwind tour of Russia, Pakistan and India.

American and British aircraft

carriers, more than 300 warplanes, ships armed with cruise missiles and special forces have taken positions within striking distance of Afghanistan. About 30,000 troops have also been deployed.

Defusing crisis

Responding to Bush's radio address, Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar took a defiant line in a statement faxed to reporters in Kabul.

"Those who have perpetrated the attacks in the United States have left no traces behind them. If the United States thinks that the hijackers were the real culprits, then they have been killed," he said.

"No one will commit suicide on the orders of another or for the aims and interests of others," Omar said, adding that the United States should examine its own

record in trying to find the "remedy" for the attacks last month.

But even as they thundered, Taliban leaders looked for ways to defuse the crisis, which has isolated them from the world and alienated them from neighboring Pakistan, their only major ally.

Pakistan has pledged full support for the US anti-terrorism campaign.

Afghan authorities confirmed Sunday that they had released British journalist Yvonne Ridley, 43, a reporter for the Sunday Express.

Taliban Information Minister Qatradullah Jamal told AP in Kabul that Ridley, arrested last month inside Afghanistan with two Afghan guides, had been freed. It was unclear when she would leave the country.

Taliban authorities had said Ridley would be investigated on

possible espionage charges but would be deported if she were found to be a journalist.

"This lady came illegally to Afghanistan. She had no passport. She entered illegally wearing Afghan dress," Jamal said.

8 aid workers

The Taliban also offered to release eight aid workers, including two Americans, if Washington stopped its threats and began negotiations.

The White House abruptly rejected the offer as a spokesperson called on the regime to release the aid workers immediately.

The eight were arrested in August on charges of preaching Christianity—a serious charge in this strictly Muslim country.

Sixteen Afghan employees of the German-based Shelter Now International organization were also arrested.

Kabul situation

On Saturday afternoon, residents of the Afghan capital rushed into the streets, when Taliban gunners fired anti-aircraft guns and two missiles at a lone, silver-colored aircraft.

The gunners missed their mark, and Taliban authorities

admitted the plane's altitude was beyond the range of their air defenses.

Afghanistan's airspace is closed to all traffic, and the Taliban said the aircraft was a spy plane.

On Saturday night, Taliban radio broadcast poems whose lyrics condemned America. There was no accompanying music, which the Taliban have banned.

Pakistan, mindful of domestic opposition to the US-led coalition, placed under house arrest Sunday a pro-Taliban cleric who has led protests against the United States, including a 5,000-strong demonstration on Saturday.

Heavily armed police and paramilitary troops were stationed at the house of Maulana Fazal-ur Rehman, leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, or the Party of Islamic Cleric, in the northwestern city of Dera Ismail Khan.

"The arrest has been made at the behest of America," Abdul Jalil Jan, deputy secretary of the group, said. "But it won't dampen our spirits." *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Japan planes on aid mission land

(From page A1)

Washington. It considers Bin Laden a "guest."

The Japanese C-130 planes, carrying 36 tons of supplies including tents, blankets, water and rescue material, arrived at the Naia in 20-minute intervals, starting around 11:05 a.m.

They parked at the old Balagbag terminal, and each of them took at least 30 minutes to refuel. Aviation fuel was supplied by trucks from Petron. A local ground-handling firm, Ages Aviation Center, provided the fuel and food to the personnel.

The planes, which originated from the Komaki Air Base in Japan, started flying out of Manila around 1 p.m. After a stopover in Bangkok and then in New Delhi on Monday, they will arrive in Islamabad on Tuesday, Kimoto said.

"We were informed about their arrival, they asked us for security assistance," the Philippine Air Force spokesperson, Col. Horacio Lapinid, said.

Already, 10 US military aircraft



A CREWMEMBER guards the relief goods being transported by Japanese military planes for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The planes, which originated from the Komaki Air Base in Japan, started flying out of Manila around 1 p.m. After a stopover in Bangkok and then in New Delhi on Monday, they will arrive in Islamabad on Tuesday, Kimoto said.

have flown over the Philippines since President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the go-signal for overflights

two weeks ago, according to the Philippine Air Force.

Ms Macapagal, who had voiced

support for the US war on terrorism, also allowed US access to the country's seaports and airports.

Economy to grow; so will national debt

(From page A1)

economic crisis in Japan, which is suffering a decade-long recession. A recession is two consecutive quarters of falling growth.

"There's uncertainty prevailing in the world economy. It's the first time ever that something like this has happened and it's hard to project the extent and duration of the effects," Roxas said.

Annual decline

As the Sept. 11 terror attacks take their toll, Philippine exports—the lynchpin of the economy—are set to post their "worst ever annual decline" in 2001, Song said.

Exports in August fell by more than 25 percent—the worst drop in 20 years—and Song expects the annual drop to be about 16-17 percent this year.

The government expects exports to contract by up to 15 percent in 2001 but is confident that the GDP will grow by at least 3.3 percent year-on-year.

At the Iloilo workshop, Roxas said exports from January to August dropped by 13 percent compared with the same period last year. This

has affected exporting firms producing electronic components in Cebu and in the Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (Calabarzon) area.

But falling exports will send the country's balance of payments deeper into the red and force Manila to borrow funds from abroad.

Plans are afoot to borrow up to \$500 million through the issuance of Japanese yen bonds by the end of November.

Doubts are also mounting on whether the government can keep its pledge to creditors that the full-year budget deficit will be limited to P145 billion (\$2.8 billion) in 2001.

The budget deficit from January to August reached a higher-than-targeted P99.53 billion (\$1.95 billion).

Amid the gloomy scenarios, the government has forecast that the deficit in the overall balance of payments—which largely captures the trade balance and investment flows—will grow to \$2.2 billion.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura has said that foreign borrowings were likely if reserves fall to \$13.4 billion.

The central bank had earlier targeted reserves of \$14 billion by yearend.

"If the forecast shows that there is no improvement in exports, and inflows run short, we may have to borrow to maintain a certain level of comfort in our gross international reserves," Buenaventura said.

With foreign investments down to a trickle, the central bank moved to reduce interest rates last week to spur domestic investment and keep the economy spinning, but analysts said this could take a toll on the weak peso currency.

As the decision to cut rates hinted at "greater tolerance for peso weakness, we expect the markets to test this tolerance in the coming weeks as the country's balance of payments position deteriorates further," Standard Chartered Bank said in a bulletin to clients.

Peso behavior

The peso ended Friday at P51.565 against the dollar.

AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said the peso's behavior would be a major consideration before the central bank cuts rates further as this could stoke inflation

at around 6 percent.

He forecast the peso to be at the 51-52.30 level to the dollar in the near term, but "what could drag down the peso is when exports continue to weaken and the trade deficit widens."

Tourism revenue and remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are expected to slump due to the fall in air travel following the US terror attacks and retrenchments caused by the tight labor market, analysts said.

With a double-digit unemployment rate at home, OFWs are a major source of foreign exchange for this country, remitting about \$7 billion-8 billion each year.

Roxas allayed fears of massive layoffs, saying the affected firms have adopted work rotation or a shorter workweek instead of retrenching employees.

He said the impact of the attacks on the economy was beyond our control. "We should concentrate on things that we can (do). The best thing is not to speculate but focus on what we can do." *With a report from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

A non-entity nominated to Berlin

(From page A1)

His distinction lies in having been an immigration commissioner, the chief of staff of Sen. Luisa Ejercito and the lead counsel of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa coalition in the May senatorial election.

As lead counsel of Puwersa, Rodriguez accused the administration's People Power Coalition of cheating in the polls, delaying by several weeks the proclamation of winning senators.

Secret 'quid pro quo'

Sources in the Department of Foreign Affairs say Rodriguez was nominated because the President "wants to send him away" for unexplained reasons. This has given rise to conjectures that the President wants to cripple Senator Ejercito's staff.

There could also be a secret *quid pro quo* over Rodriguez's nomination.

The fact alone that Rodriguez worked against the administration even after the President had committed the Berlin post to him indicated that the commitment had not

worked to her advantage if she meant to make the posting a reward. If it was meant to soften deposed President Joseph Estrada, it's not getting that result.

All we have been told by Ms Macapagal is that she has committed the Berlin post to Rodriguez as early as last January, and she has to honor her word. The right of the President to appoint ambassadors, either from the career service or the private sector, is not an issue. Nor is it an issue that she has the power to dump misfits into the foreign service or that there should be a balance between career and political ambassadors.

The issue is that Berlin deserves better representation from the Philippines than tyros and amateurs who are being given political rewards designed to ensure domestic peace for the President.

In the hierarchy of politically sensitive postings in Europe, Berlin is among five top listening posts; the rest are London, Paris, Brussels (the seat of the European Union), and Moscow. These postings deserve the country's talents and not second-raters.

We have as ambassador to Berlin Jose Zaide, a career diplomat who was ambassador to Austria. He has a deep background in European politics, which he gained after having been posted to Moscow at a time when Russia was transitioning rather turbulently from communism to capitalism/democracy.

We have in Paris a career senior diplomat who speaks French, Hector Villaroel, and we have in London Cesar Bautista, trade secretary in the Cabinet of then President Fidel Ramos. Although Bautista did not come from the career service, he is doing very well in London, helped by his experience in public service and extensive contacts with the business community.

Carlos P. Romulo

The historical hierarchy of political postings in our foreign office is, as follows: In North America, they are Washington, D.C., and our mission in the United Nations in New York, a post given prestige by a term there by former Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo.

In Asia, they are Japan, China

and Indonesia. In South Asia, it is India. In the Middle East, they are Saudi Arabia and Egypt. These are the leading posts not only because of our political and economic interests associated with these countries, but also because they are sensitive listening posts in their respective regions.

But Berlin, after unification, has developed into a more important diplomatic post than the other politically sensitive European postings. Germany is Europe's strongest and biggest economy. It has the most powerful army among the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) allies in Europe. It stands astride Eastern and Western Europe where a new balance of power, with Berlin as the center of gravity, is taking shape.

By 2003, the European Union will embrace Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. These four countries were once part of the Eastern European alliance of client states of the former Soviet Union. The expansion of the European Union, whose territorial boundaries would now move east beyond the post-World War II boundary demar-

cated by the Oder and Nisse Rivers, makes Berlin even more central to the capitals of Western Europe and Eastern Europe.

Al-Qaida

The strategic importance of Germany as a political listening post has been underlined by the unearthing of evidence that Hamburg had been a center of the al-Qaida terrorist network of Osama bin Laden. And Germany has been a key partner of the United States, Britain and France in tracking down the terrorist networks responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Ms Macapagal's panache for foreign relations, the forte of her father, has yet to be established and faces a critical test in the ambassadorial she is nominating to Germany. Her nominations so far, especially that of Rodriguez, indicate flawed judgment and insensitivity to the requirements of having incisive, diplomatically experienced, and politically perceptive persons as heads of our key embassies in sen-

sitive listening posts.

A pity

Our best shot for Berlin is Rodriguez. What a pity. Bismarck, the "Iron Chancellor" and architect of the first German unification led by Prussia, and Frederick the Great could be turning in their graves.

Ms Macapagal will be sending Rodriguez to the land of Beethoven, Goethe, Schiller, Günter Grass and the Berlin Philharmonic and to the new giant in European continental politics without known credentials as a perceptive diplomatic observer. Rodriguez would be uneasy walking on the Unter den Linden, in the shadow of the Brandenburg Gate or strolling in the gardens at Sans Souci in Potsdam.

The President says she has to make good a commitment. If she is so determined, she could shift Rodriguez to Tonga. Let's not degrade our relations with Germany because there's some murky *quid pro quo* between her and Rodriguez. Ms Macapagal's judgments in ambassadorial appointments are not an improvement on Estrada's. We are not sending ambassadors to the Payatas dump.

Islamic militancy a rising threat in Southeast Asia

SINGAPORE—Southeast Asian countries are on alert for a rise in Islamic militancy after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but analysts and scholars were confident the region would escape extremism.

The extent of action taken by militants would also depend on how Washington carried out punitive military strikes on Afghanistan, they said.

Governments, jolted by the magnitude of the Sept. 11 kamikaze attacks in New York and Washington, were taking threats from militants more seriously.

Security has become the prime topic for discussion at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) leaders' summit in Brunei next month.

"We have seen what these people are capable of," an Asean diplomat said.

Scholars agree that Southeast Asia's legions of Muslim faithful are generally moderate, which would help shield the region from extremism.

However, they pointed to small pockets of militants who are increasingly expanding ties with international terrorist groups.

Indonesia, Asean's biggest member, is the world's most populous Muslim nation. Malaysia is a largely Muslim country, while Singapore and Thailand have significant populations following Islam.

The Philippines is currently facing a Muslim separatist rebellion in the southern island of Mindanao and is battling the small but well-armed kidnap group Abu Sayyaf, allegedly with links to Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the attacks on the United States.

Radical Islam

"I would think that the threat of Islamic militancy will depend on the magnitude of destruction that would be unleashed by the United States against Afghanistan," said Julkipli Wadi, a professor of Islamic studies at the University of the Philippines in Manila.

Washington has marshaled a formidable military force for possible strikes against Afghanistan, where Bin Laden is considered a "guest."

But any "indiscriminate attack" against the Afghan people could transform Southeast Asia's moderates into a "radical Islam," said Wadi, who has studied the Abu Sayyaf and its founder Abdurajak Janjalani, a firebrand preacher who trained in Libya and in Afghan mili-

tary camps.

"You can expect reverberations in southern Thailand, some civil society groups in Singapore, in Malaysia, Muslim militant Islamic groups in Indonesia and the southern Philippines," he told Agence France Presse.

He added, however, that "the implications will be less if the military strikes will be surgical and there are less civilian casualties."

Ismail Haji Ibrahim, director general of Malaysia's Institute of Islamic Understanding, said the threat of militancy is most serious in Indonesia, where Muslim militants have mounted anti-US demonstrations and hundreds have signed up to fight alongside Afghanistan.

"The attacks in the US will not increase the threat of Islamic extremism in the region because generally we have very moderate Muslim beliefs," Ismail said.

Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said in September that while Islamic militancy was "not yet deeply rooted" as communism had been in the then Malaya and Singapore in the 1960s, the danger could not be ignored.

Careful watch

"I do not want to downplay the capabilities of the Islamic radicals," he said, adding that "we should watch it carefully because if they take root in Indonesia, come up to Malaysia and come up to Johor (bordering Singapore), then we're vulnerable."

Irman Lanti, a visiting research associate at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore, said: "In Southeast Asia, things are a little bit more calm. Even though there are threats of growing extremism in the region, religious beliefs in this region are by nature moderate."

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which is campaigning for an independent state in the southern Philippines, said there was a danger that local Muslim militants will be inspired by the terror attacks in the United States.

"Yes, there is the danger. There are some groups, some individuals... but, by and large, it is manageable," he told AFP by telephone.

"If the retaliation will be indiscriminate, the danger will rise, but now the Americans are becoming more reasonable rather than emotional, so this is a good development," said Kabalu, whose group has condemned the terror attacks in America as "un-Islamic."

Hundreds of MILF fighters had fought alongside the Afghan mujahideens during the Russian invasion, and several of them are now top guerrilla field commanders.

But Kabalu said the MILF has no links with the present Afghan rulers, the Taliban, as their former allies are mainly in the Afghan opposition now.

AFP

7 Abus killed in clashes

(From page A1)

ally supervising the actual engagements from the boundaries of Isabela to Lantawan."

"This is the longest firefight so far that started at 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., tuloy-tuloy pa rin (it's still continuing), with sporadic firing monitored at Lantawan proper," Detabali said.

Esperon confirmed that the First Scout Ranger Battalion under Major Galvez encountered some 150 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Isnilon Hapilon and Hamsiraji Sali.

But the military official could not say if the two American hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham, were with the group of Hapilon.

Detabali, on the other hand, confirmed the order of massive air assault using two Huey helicopters, three MS-520 helicopter gunships and two OV-10 aircraft.

"Based on our aerial monitoring, talagang marami liong (they are really many) Abu Sayyaf and they are fully equipped or fully armed with two recoilless 90 RR, one 57 RR, one 50 cal. machine gun, and several M16 and M14 rifles. In fact, we recovered one M160-E3 machine gun (in the latest assault)," he said.

Detabali added that the government troops were having difficulty zeroing in on the bandits because "they are hiding in the concrete houses of the civilians in the area. Hindi kami basta-basta makapagpaputok (we could not just open fire)."

"We have to resort to air strikes because they have sought refuge in a vast mangrove area," said Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sun, one of the military officials overseeing the assault, told the AP.

Cimatu dispatched more troops to the area, aside from the reinforcements coming from the Army's 10th Infantry Battalion, according to the AFP report.

"We have deployed more troops from our Special Forces and Navy to

serve as blocking forces sa dagat (in the sea)," Cimatu said.

Maj. Arnel Dela Vega, commanding officer of the 11th Special Forces Battalion based in Zamboanga, confirmed the deployment of additional Special Forces based in Barangay Tabuk in Isabela.

The 17 wounded Scout Rangers were immediately airlifted to Camp Navarro hospital.

Cimatu said he would award medals to the wounded soldiers today during the visit of Army chief Gen. Jaime delos Santos.

Detabali identified some of the wounded Scout Rangers as Staff Sergeant Sambrano; Corporals Casimiro, Alpon and Lisnang, Privates First Class Alpon, Bisnar, Balagan, Castoner, Navales, Crisostomo and Partible, Privates Kitong and Castillo.

A militiaman, identified only as Orosco, was also wounded.

Cimatu said local government officials were attending to civilian residents. "Lahat ng appektado (all of those affected) have been ordered to evacuate. As much as possible, we ordered and observed minimal destruction to properties," he said.

Esperon said intercepted radio communications from the rebels indicated heavy casualties suffered by the Abu Sayyaf. Several firearms were also recovered.

Janjalani

According to the AFP report, Cimatu said the bandits were believed to be under the command of Khadaffi Janjalani, the elusive Abu Sayyaf chief holding two American and 16 Filipino hostages in Basilan's jungles.

Police said the Abu Sayyaf members encountered in Balantay were the same bandits who attacked Isabela on Thursday night with rounds of mortar fire. Three civilians were injured in the blasts and a soldier was wounded in an ensuing gunfire.

Officials said the Thursday attack

was launched to divert military attention from another Abu Sayyaf unit holding the hostages.

"There are no sightings of the hostages but we believe they were the rebel force because (they) could not leave the area. We got them cornered," Cimatu reportedly said.

Government troops tightened security around Isabela's downtown area, to prevent the fighting from spreading there, police said.

Residents fleeing the fighting reported that four guerrillas were killed, officials said.

Golez

On Saturday at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said that Abu Sayyaf bandits "were being chased," citing the briefing provided by Cimatu in Malacanan last Friday.

Talking to the officers and men of the Army's 7th Infantry Division gathered for an awarding ceremony, Golez hinted of a major operation pursuit against the bandits.

"Short of disclosing something that has operational security matters, I would like to tell you that something big is happening right now in Isabela," he said.

"There will be a very, very positive development," he added.

Speaking in Filipino, Golez said he was "praying for the day when the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be victorious there and hoist the Philippine flag."

Quoting Cimatu, he said the offensives against the Abu Sayyaf were "very, very productive."

Sobero

Military officials said US Embassy staff members were scheduled to arrive late Sunday here to retrieve skeletal remains recovered by soldiers last week.

The remains are believed to belong to Guillermo Sobero, one of the three American hostages whom the Abu Sayyaf claimed to have executed as an

"independence day" gift to the Philippine government in June.

The bones were recovered in a shallow grave in a Basilan forest after a captured bandit who claimed to have taken part in the execution led troops to the area. The pile of bones was without a skull, apparently confirming the Abu Sayyaf claim that Sobero had been beheaded.

Military officials said DNA testing on the bones was to be carried out to determine whether they belonged to Sobero.

Officials earlier said relatives of Sobero were to accompany the embassy staff, but later corrected the report.

Golez stressed the remains were still "subject to verification."

The military has deployed about 5,000 soldiers and have been waging a massive assault against the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan since May to destroy the bandits and rescue their 18 hostages. The group is believed to have links with Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden.

Since the Dos Palmas hostage-taking incident in May, the military had captured 180 Abu Sayyaf bandits, killed 80 and caused the surrender of 90 others, Golez said.

Miracles

The discovery of the terrorist group's presence in Basilan was one of two "miracles" that Ms Macapagal said during the JIL celebration were in progress.

The other concerned the release of a Chinese national, Zhang Zhongyi, who was being held by kidnappers identified as members of the "Pentagon" group.

"I think the Lord gathered us here today because of two mysterious incidents now in progress in Mindanao," the President said.

"Lord, as President, I beseech you in the name of the Filipino people, show your glory!" she added. *With reports from Martin Marfil; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Inquirer wires*

Arabs just 'invited' for questioning

(From page A1)

questioning."

Akbar's new directive to the police and military was apparently issued in reaction to allegations of racial profiling against him.

"Let us question them, see if they have the necessary documents of their visit," he said.

Last week, Akbar said Arab-looking visitors "can be the source of trouble."

On Saturday, Akbar said that if the foreigners failed to present proper documents "from their respective embassies," they will be arrested and sent to Zamboanga City.

"Bahala na kung saan sila pupunta, huwag lang dito sa Basilan (I don't care where they'll go, but not in Basilan)," he said.

Reacting to Akbar's order, Presidential Adviser for Peace Process Eduardo Ermita said last week that "there's got to be some reasonable response to anything."

"We are not generalizing that all Arabs are bad, neither are we generalizing that all terrorists are Muslims and all Muslims are not good. I don't know why he (Akbar) said that in the first

place," Ermita said.

Akbar said that since he issued the "arrest" order last week, not a single "Arab-looking" person has been arrested.

Allaying fears

In another statement, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez allayed fears of an indiscriminate crackdown on Filipino Muslims amid the government's renewed counter-terrorism efforts.

"This is not a fight against Muslims. (Osama) Bin Laden is a terrorist who happens to be a Muslim. There is no religious connection here. Bin Laden is the identified perpetrator (of the Sept. 11 attacks) and he will have to be brought to justice," Golez said during a visit in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Saturday.

He clarified that only a few Filipino Muslims were harboring such fears.

Golez said, however, that Muslims or not, Filipinos should overcome their psychological fears.

Referring to leftists and bandits in the country, he said, "We should not be victims to these people who are trying to strike fears in our hearts by talking about retaliation."

"We are already victims, whether

we're neutral or not. Filipinos have died (in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf). (We also felt the brunt of) the economic repercussions (of terrorism). We are already affected," he said.

Last Friday's meeting of the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security developed a holistic approach to counter-terrorism, he said.

Internal security

Golez said the country's internal security plan entailed strengthening coordination and integrating the efforts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and various government departments and agency heads helping in the peace process.

The plan, he added, might also require adjusting the budgets of the departments and addressing some possible weaknesses like lack of manpower.

He did not cite the amount that the renewed counter-terrorism efforts would need, adding this was still being studied.

Golez admitted not knowing when the "actual hostilities" would start against suspected terrorist financier Osama bin Laden, his al-Qaida network and countries supporting Bin Laden and

his terrorist cells.

The United States, according to him, was not disclosing the details. "We just have to watch," he said.

He was certain though that the war against terrorism was not going to start the same way like the Gulf War in 1990.

"I think it will be a quiet, silent war using the US special forces and Delta forces. Every now and then, there may be some Cruise missile with specific targets," he said.

Golez declined to say when American troops are arriving in Clark in Pampanga and Subic in Zambales, former US military bases that are being offered by the Philippine government for use in transit and transshipment in the global war against terrorism.

"We don't know yet. And we cannot disclose that for operational security," he said.

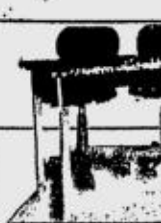
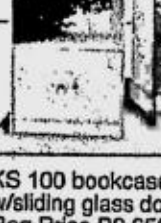
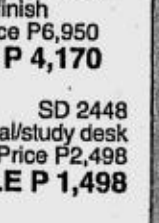
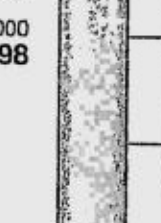
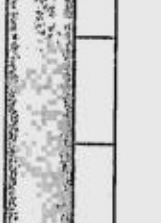
But the United States, he said, was not given a blanket authority to use Philippine airspace or facilities.

"When they will pass through (Philippine airspace), there will be prior coordination with the Philippine government," he said. *Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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SANTOS raises the whip as Lyonnais nears the payoff wire. JESS YUSON



Lyonnais tops Sta. Lucia Futurity race at Santa Ana

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

FIRST pick Lyonnais outlasted speed horse Power Pack down the stretch to win the Sta. Lucia Realty Grand Futurity Stakes race before a huge crowd yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

The three-year-old chestnut colt gamely responded to the prodding of former apprentice L. I. Santos to prevail by two lengths.

Lyonnais, who carried the top weight of 56 kilos, clocked 1:56 over the seldom-used 1,800-meter route, clicking fractions of 14-22.5-26-24.5-29.

The winning connections took the first prize of P225,000 put up by real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. which also formally introduced yesterday the Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park, the future home of the Santa Ana Park located in Tanza, Cavite.

Power Pack (J. B. Guce) settled for P80,000, while third place worth P50,000 went to Red Bells (Pat Dilema). Silver Rose (V. M. Camanero) landed fourth for P20,000.

Second favorite Serena (F. M. Raquel Jr.) landed a disappointing fifth, with Bidang Bida (J. B.

Hernandez) coming in sixth and last.

Santos quickly put Lyonnais within range of Power Pack when the gates opened with Serena also joining the fray. Nearing the far turn, Power Pack gamely held on to the lead as Lyonnais dug in, while Serena drifted back.

"But nag-respond siya nang maige (It's good he responded well)," said Santos after notching his first major victory.

Presidential son Mikey Arroyo and SLRDI President Exequiel Robles handed the trophies to Lyonnais' connections.

Marlins shade Gems

Games Wednesday
RMC Gym, Davao
3 p.m.—Negros vs Davao
San Juan Gym
5:30 p.m.—Cebu vs San Juan

BY ROY LUARCA

THE SOCSARGEN-TAGUIG Marlins won't let this win go away.

With Bong Alvarez and Aldrich Reyes rising to the challenge, the Marlins posted a pulsating 106-103 overtime victory over the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems yesterday in the MBA second Phase at the San Juan gym.

Both canned two freethrows in the dying seconds to give the Marlins their first victory after five straight defeats and avert what could have been a controversial reversal of the tight contest.

The Marlins could have won the game outright, but Melvin Taguines' follow-up off a miss by Peter Naron

was counted as time expired necessitating the extension at 93-93.

The Gems saw their three-game winning streak broken and fell to 3-3 in the Southern Conference.

Socsargen-Taguig again looked headed to victory when it took a 102-97 lead with barely a minute and two seconds to go.

Gems Stephen Padilla and Al Solis, however, canned a triple each to put Cebuana Lhuillier back on top with but 25 seconds left.

Alvarez drove in and converted his charities off Bobby Jose to give the Marlins a one-point lead and after Gem Carlos Sayon committed a passing error, Reyes sealed the contest with two more freethrows off Solis, only 4.7 seconds to go.

As in their first encounter won by the Gems, 90-86, last Friday, neither team was able to lead by more than seven points.

Francis Rodriguez thus notched

his first win after taking over the coaching chores from Boyzie Zamar or the Marlins shortly after the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

For his heroics and his 24-point, 9-rebound, 7-assist effort, Alvarez shared best player of the game honors with Alwin Flores, who finished with 16 points in 10 rebounds and was responsible for keeping the Gems at bay in regulation play.

Andok's San Juan bested LBC Batangas, 86-82, in the second game to share the lead with its victim in the Northern Conference. The Knights and the Blades have 5-1 records.

Scores:
SOCSARGEN-TAGUIG 106—Alvarez 24, Echavez 17, Flores 16, Rodriguez 16, Santos 14, Teng 7, Martin 4, Co 0, Tizon 0.

CEBUANA LHULLIER 103—Padilla 18, Naron 15, Sta. Maria 15, Solis 11, Se 10, Sayon 10, Taguines 10, Jose 6, Lura 4, de Jesus 2, Yu 2, Mejia 0.

Quarters: 23-26, 43-43, 69-69, 93-93, 106-103.

No vacancy, Pacers tell Dennis Rodman

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indiana Pacers have a message for Dennis Rodman: Nice to see you but all jobs are filled.

The seven-time NBA rebounding champion had said he expected to return to the NBA this season at age 40. Specifically, he said he could be playing for the Pacers.

That's news to the Pacers. "I met with Dennis," Pacers president Donnie Walsh said. "We had a good meeting before the season. Our roster is full."

Rodman was asked by host Jim Rome on "The Last Word," broadcast by Fox Sports Net on Friday night, if he would soon be back in an NBA uniform.

"Absolutely, absolutely. I've talked to a couple teams," said Rodman, who hasn't played in the

NBA since the Dallas Mavericks released him after 13 games late in the 1999-00 season. "Indiana is really interested right now. So hopefully next week, I'll get the call, or tomorrow, and I'll go back and give it hell."

He was a member of two championship teams in Detroit, where he played with current Pacers coach Isiah Thomas.

When asked if he'd rather be with Michael Jordan, his former Bulls teammate, or Thomas, Rodman said: "If I was with Michael Jordan, it would be good for me, just because of the fame and the money and stuff like that. If I go to Indiana, same thing. I can be popular because I'm with Reggie Miller and Isiah and those guys. So, it doesn't really matter to me at this point." AP



YOUNG RIDER

Kenneth San Andres of Caltex-KTM Racing Team celebrates after topping the seventh and final leg of the National Motocross Super Series at the Eastborough Place in Angono, Rizal recently. San Andres, who is also supported by Triumph Marketing, Access Plus, Oakley, Dan's Bikeshop and Viajero's Restaurant, bagged the overall title for the sixth straight year.

56th season

IN ADDITION to the numerous veteran player transfers, there are several names on NBA training camp rosters that ring a bell.

At least five ex-PBA imports are vying for roster berths for the NBA's 56th season which gets underway on Halloween Day (Oct. 31, Manila time). They are Miami's Sam Mack, New York's Larry Robinson, Charlotte's Eldridge Recasner, the LA Clippers' Ansu Sesay and Portland's Rick Brunson.

Mack and Brunson were one-game PBA vets.

Mack, a 6-7 swingman, is seeking a spot with the Heat after spending last season out of the NBA. The 31-year-old Chicago native, whose collegiate odyssey took him to Iowa State, Arizona State, Tyler Junior College and Houston, went undrafted in the NBA in 1992 but eventually found his way into the big league with the San Antonio Spurs during the 1992-93 wars as a rookie free agent. The next three years, however, Mack toiled in the now-defunct Continental Basketball Association, sandwiched by a brief stint in the PBA in 1995 wherein he suited up for a single game with Sta. Lucia Realty before mysteriously walking out of the Realtors' camp without even leaving a word of farewell.

Mack returned to the NBA in 1995-96 and had stints in Houston (twice), Vancouver and Golden State during a five-year stretch through 1999-2000. Owner of NBA career averages of 8.0 points, 2.1 rebounds and 1.3 assists in 247 regular contests, Mack split time in the International Basketball League and CBA (Grand Rapids) last season.

Like Mack, Robinson is a six-year NBA veteran and has had a well-traveled roundball journey. The 6-3 guard, who also played in the CBA, World Basketball League and French and Spanish leagues, has donned the colors of Washington (thrice), Golden State, Boston, Houston, Vancouver, Atlanta and Cleveland, posting NBA career norms of 4.6 points and 0.9 assist in 87 appearances.

Ripken draws cheers

BALTIMORE—In his final game in the major leagues, Cal Ripken didn't hit a dramatic home run. He didn't even get a hit. It hardly mattered.

Ripken's career wasn't about clutch hits or home runs, even though he had plenty of both. The Baltimore Orioles' star attained worldwide fame because he showed up every day to play, whether he was hurt or mired in a miserable slump. That is why he will forever be known as the Iron Man.

So, even though his 0-for-3 performance Saturday night in the Orioles' 5-1 loss to the Boston Red Sox put a 2-for-48 finish on his Hall of Fame career, Ripken nevertheless drew more cheers than a former president, baseball's commissioner and several players already in the Hall of Fame. AP



LADY DRIVER

Jennifer Jones Fernandez-Ambata is shown with her car after ruling the ladies' division and landing second overall in a recent car rallye competition at the CCP Complex. The event was sponsored by Ama Motor Works and Starsvenue. Ambata is also joining the "Angels of Motor Sports" at the Mega Trade Hall Exhibit, SM Megamall.

Giants beaten

SAN FRANCISCO—With new home run king Barry Bonds out of the starting lineup, James Baldwin pitched seven shutout innings and added an RBI double as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants, 6-2.

Bonds, who hit his record 71st and 72nd homers Friday night, singled as a pinch-hitter in the ninth inning. He then left for a pinch-runner, and many fans also exited. AP

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
	W	L	PCT	GB
East Division				
x-New York	94	65	.591	—
Boston	82	79	.509	13
Toronto	88	81	.497	15
Baltimore	63	98	.391	32
Tampa Bay	62	99	.385	33
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	98	71	.589	—
Minnesota	84	77	.522	8
Chicago	83	78	.516	7
Detroit	66	95	.410	24
Kansas City	64	97	.398	26
West Division				
x-Seattle	116	45	.720	—
y-Oakland	101	60	.627	15
Anaheim	75	86	.465	41
Texas	72	89	.447	44
x-clinched division				
y-clinched wild card				
National League				
	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
x-Atlanta	88	73	.547	—
Philadelphia	85	76	.528	3
New York	82	79	.509	6
Florida	75	86	.466	13
Montreal	67	94	.416	21
Central Division				
y-St. Louis	83	68	.578	—
y-Houston	82	69	.571	1
Chicago	88	73	.547	5
Milwaukee	67	94	.416	26
Cincinnati	66	95	.410	27
Pittsburgh	61	100	.379	32
West Division				
x-Arizona	92	69	.571	—
San Francisco	89	72	.553	3
Los Angeles	86	75	.534	6
San Diego	79	82	.491	13
Colorado	72	89	.447	20
x-clinched division				
y-clinched playoff spot				
American League				
Kansas City 8, Detroit 3, 1st game; Detroit 2, Kansas City 1, 2nd game; Oakland 5, Anaheim 3, Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 5; Boston 5, Baltimore 1; Toronto 5, Cleveland 2; Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 5, Seattle 1, Texas 0.				
National League				
St. Louis 10, Houston 6, Philadelphia 2, Cincinnati 1, 1st game; Philadelphia 5, Cincinnati 1, 2nd game; San Diego 10, Colorado 4; Chicago Cubs 13, Pittsburgh 2; Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 2; Atlanta 7, Florida 3, Milwaukee 5, Arizona 4, N.Y. Mets 4, Montreal 0.				

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Scuba diving meet set

THE FIRST Boracay Fish ID Scuba Diving Adventure will be held at Lorenzo Resort on Oct. 27-29. The event is also backed by New Wave Divers, Air Philippines and 99.5 RT. Entry fee is P8,535. Highlights of the meet will be featured in "Unlimited Diving" which is aired over NBN Channel 4, Monday, 10:30-11 p.m. For more details, call (632) 913-8605, fax (632) 912-0873, 0917-936-8895 or e-mail at unlimiteddiving@yahoo.com

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

MSN swimfest Oct. 27-28

THE MSN 3 Millennium Grand Prix 2001-2002 swimming meet unfolds on Oct. 27-28 at the International School in Bel Air, Makati. The country's national swimmers will compete in the two-day, short-course swimfest organized by the Metropolitan Swimming Network in partnership with the Professional Swimming Coaches Academy (Proscap). The Philippine Amateur Swimming Association-sanctioned event will serve as pre-qualifying for the national team's international stints next year. **Senen Bravo**



DELASIN acknowledges the cheers from the crowd after making a birdie on the 17th. AP

SAMSUNG TILT

Delasin grabs 1 shot lead

VALLEJO, California—Dorothy Joy Delasin is playing her best golf in a place where everybody seems to know her name.

With the gallery shouting constant encouragement, Delasin birdied three of the final four holes to move one stroke ahead of Karrie Webb and Se Ri Pak on Saturday at the Samsung World Championship in Vallejo, California.

Delasin, a 21-year-old second-year pro who grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, had a 5-under 67 for a 208 total. She waved and blew a kiss to the gallery after tapping in her final putt.

"It's cool. It's like people saying 'Tiger!' or 'Sergio!'" Delasin said. "Now, they're saying 'Dorothy! Dorothy!'"

Webb, who started strong but had just one birdie in the final 11 holes, shot a 70. Pak, who tied Delasin for the first-round lead, fought off a stiff neck muscle for a bogey-free 67.

Delasin learned the game on San Francisco's municipal courses, and her family still lives in South San Francisco. She declined college scholarship offers to turn pro before last season, when she became the youngest player to win an LPGA event since 1975.

She has been the clear crowd favorite at the event, which pits 20 of the world's top women players against each other at Hiddenbrooke Golf Club.

After hanging behind second-round leader Webb with steady play for most of the day, Delasin passed the two-time Player of the Year with birdies on the final two holes. She nearly eagled the par-5 18th, but her 30-foot putt sat on the lip of the cup.

"I had to grind it out a little bit, but I hung in there. I hope I'll bring it home," Delasin said of her matchup for Sunday, in which she'll try to beat two of the game's three top players.

Consistency — not always Delasin's forte, she admits — has been her key. She didn't miss a green Saturday, and she has yet to three-putt.

Webb, looking for her first victory since completing her career Grand Slam in June, got a charge from playing in front of fans clearly supporting Delasin.

"It's great for her," Webb said. "I get to experience that a few times a year in Australia. It's a lot of fun to play when 99 percent of the gallery is rooting for you. She's definitely giving her fans a lot to cheer about."

Delasin has two tour victories — both in the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic in Ohio — but this will be the first time she takes a lead into the final round. In both of her victories, she came from behind to pass Pak.

Pak, who won the AFLAC Championships in Alabama last week, nearly dropped out of the tournament Friday

after straining her neck while warming up. After a few massages, she said her neck was "still stiff, but not too bad."

Defending champion Juli Inkster, who has won three of the last four World Championships, holed a bunker shot on 18 to finish at 212.

Inkster, another Bay Area golfer who watched Barry Bonds set the home-run record in San Francisco on Friday night, did her victory dance after the final shot.

"It was a nice way to finish. It kind of got me back in the tournament," Inkster said. "As soon as I hit it, I could see the line. It was going right in."

Annika Sorenstam, the leading Player of the Year candidate, shot a 71 to remain on the edge of contention at even-par 216. AP

The third round scores:

Dorothy Delasin	70-71-67-208
Se Ri Pak	70-72-67-209
Karrie Webb	72-67-70-209
Ernie Els	71-75-65-211
Juli Inkster	74-70-68-212
Rachel Teske	77-65-72-214
Mi Hyun Kim	74-70-71-215
Annika Sorenstam	73-72-71-216
Janice Moodie	76-69-72-217
Michele Redman	76-72-70-218
Wendy Ward	76-72-70-218
Lorie Kane	78-69-71-218
Kelly Robbins	71-75-72-218
Maria Hjorth	78-70-71-219
Rosie Jones	73-74-72-219
Sophie Gustafson	71-74-74-219
Dottie Pepper	74-74-72-220
Laura Diaz	77-70-74-221
Catrina Matthew	76-73-73-222
Ah Ram Suh	82-81-72-235

Daly just 3 down

PULHEIM, Germany—Bernhard Langer led the Linde German Masters by a stroke Saturday as American John Daly closed in by firing a day's best 8-under-par 64.

Langer, seeking his 11th title in Germany, used a final hole birdie to shake off three other players heading into the event's final round.

Langer's 68 left him at 17-under 199, with Sweden's Fredrik Jacobson, Australian Stephen Leaney and England's Greg Owen a shot back.

"A few loose shots, a couple of missed birdies, but I played well—I didn't want to give up the lead," said Langer.

Daly was three strokes behind, charging at the end as he closed with five birdies in six holes to move to 14-under 202 at the \$3.99-million event.

Taking advantage of a sunny windless day, the popular American dropped his score for the third straight day after rounds of 71 and 67.

"It's been three days of solid golf, but nothing really happened," said Daly. "It's really nice to see some putts finally drop."

Daly put himself in position to repeat his showing at August's BMW Open, where he came from behind on the final round to win his first title in six years—a part of a year-long comeback.

"It's going to be hard to beat Langer," said Daly of the two-time Masters champion. "He is tough to beat when he's ahead, if you look at his history." AP



DALY

Phone Pals halt Realtors' streak

'Double 10' golf Oct. 10

CLUB Intramuros grand senior golfers will hold their Double 10 tournament this coming Wednesday, Oct. 10, at the Intramuros course. Tee-off time is 6:30-9 a.m.

The 18-hole event is presented by the Embassy of Republic of China led by his excellency Ambassador Benjamin Lu with the support of Ambassador Juan Carlo Escalona of the Embassy of the Republic of Panama and the City of Parañaque led by Mayor Joey Marquez, vice mayor Jun Bernabe, administrator Lito Abad and councilors Pablo Gabriel, Jimmy Neri, Gus Tambunting, Jovan Esplana and Bert Buenavista.

Other sponsors are Gloria Maris through Benny Cuason, Euro-Asiatic Shipping Inc. (Capt. Lou Atienza), association president Atilano Gabriel and Century Park Hotel.

GAMES WEDNESDAY (PhilSports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Purefoods vs Tanduay
7:10 p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ASI Taulava's triple in the last 29 seconds uncovered Sta. Lucia Realty's cloak of invincibility as Talk N Text survived with an 81-80 victory over the Realtors last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the PhilSports Arena.

Pushed in a corner and left with no other alternative but to shoot, Taulava uncorked a trey that swished the net and eventually dealt the Realtors their first defeat of the conference in seven games.

Taulava's triple diffused tension that pervaded both teams in the final moments and allowed the Phone Pals to pick up their fifth victory after coming from two consecutive setbacks for solo second.

With 52 ticks left and the Realtors up by a point, 77-76, the ensuing play was actually intended for Brandon Williams but Taulava took matters into his hands and let fly a triple over the outstretched arms of Dennis Espino and Chris Tan.

"The play was designed for Williams but a scramble ensued and what happened next was Taulava making

the shot from the three-point area," said Talk N Text coach Louie Alas.

Earlier, Shell subdued the Danny Seigle-less San Miguel Beer, 95-85.

In chalking up their third consecutive win for a 4-2 record, the Turbo Chargers needed only a second-quarter blitz to dispose off the Beermen, who continued to struggle and missed the services of Seigle for the fourth straight time.

Seigle, who forms part of San Miguel's offensive triumvirate, the others being Lamont Strothers and Danny Ildefonso, won't be back until the Beermen's last few games in the elimination due to back spasms.

SHELL 95—Jones 35, Hrabak 17, Wainwright 16, Singleton 8, Jackson 7, Dela Cruz 6, Telan 4, Esplana 2. SAN MIGUEL 85—Strothers 35, Ildefonso 21, Racela 10, Belasco 9, Victoria 5, Duet 3, Abuda 2, Pena 0, Lago 0. Quarters: 28-18, 58-42, 76-64, 95-85.

Welcoat nips Shark

CELINO Cruz sank two gift shots off Rysal Castro in the final 1.9 seconds as Welcoat Paints nipped Shark Energy Drink, 62-60, yesterday to capture the first PBL Open Invitational crown at the Makati Coliseum.



MEMBERS of the Letran Squires with Letran athletic moderator Fr. Alaurin and assistant team manager Gil Angeles flash the No. 1 sign after winning the NCAA junior basketball title at the expense of the San Beda Red Cubs recently.

Squires shine

THE OVERTIME victory was just too sweet to savor for the Letran Squires. After all, they had been through a lot.

The proud Squires buried the ghost of a series of near-misses when they edged the San Beda Red Cubs via overtime, 63-61, before a delirious crowd at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum and marked the return to power of a team that had produced quite a number of local cage legends.

An almost 15-year winning spell was put to an end by a squad determined to avenge a heart-breaking loss to Mapua last season. The Squires looked on the way to breaking the jinx when they completed a 14-game sweep of the eliminations only to be ousted by the Red Robins in the semis.

Letran followed the same eliminations path and forged a return match with the Red Robins. This time, the Squires made sure they got into the finals and went all the way by upending San Beda for the crown.

Fr. Edwin Lao, OP, Fr. Edgardo Alaurin and Gil Angeles, who is managing the team for prominent lawyer Rey Oben, were all praises for the big fighting heart shown by their players.

Time running out on Hall of Fame

IS JOE Zubiri ready for this year's Basketball Hall of Fame?

This question has been raised recently by many people who want to get the inside dope from no less than former congressman and now Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri, executive director of the National Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation where he also sits as chair of its steering committee.

Will there be a third Hall of Fame induction ceremony, asked countless basketball fans? It is already October, they said, yet they have not heard lately from Smokin' Joe Zubiri. After much fanfare, they added, it seemed the pioneering project is suddenly losing its luster. No, it has not.

A great project like the Hall of Fame is always alive. It cannot be erased by the most trying human drama like the recent terrorist attacks on the United States or by controversy. It can only be delayed, but not obliterated. Times are really hard and, aggravated by the global crisis, the prospects of holding another induction ceremony are growing dimmer every day. Still, let's give Joe some more time.

As I have written not long ago, my assumption is that Joe Zubiri is busy nowadays wearing one hat too many, first and foremost, as provincial gover-

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



nor, then as successful businessman and executive director of the Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation.

Although he could be pressed for time, I sense that Zubiri will not be a profound disappointment to the sports fans as well as to the legion of basketball diehards. I gathered that he has started meetings with people who can help him stage the Hall of Fame induction ceremony which will honor the basketball legends of a bygone era.

BRIEFLY NOTED. Lt. Col. Julian Malonso, former president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, will be the guest speaker of the Rotary Club of Mandaluyong, RI District 3800, at noon on Fri-

day, Oct. 12, at Shangri-La Plaza Edsa. He will speak on the "Importance of Sports." Malonso will be introduced by Ed Alcaraz. Avaricious promoter Don King announced recently that the WBA heavyweight title fight between champion John Ruiz and challenger Evander Holyfield will be held in the United States instead of China. Citing "the uncertainty that exists and the advisory issued by the State Department on international travel, we decided the prudent course was not to travel overseas at this time." King said the fight, to be televised by HBO, will take place either Nov. 24 or Dec. 15, with Atlanta, Holyfield's hometown; Boston, Connecticut and Las Vegas as possible venue. Marketing expert Mon Tuason, who celebrated a milestone recently (belated happy birthday, my friend), is battling for acting MBA commissioner Butch Aquino, saying, "Butch is as good as appointed. It'll probably happen in the next board meeting." Veteran internationalist and Olympic shooter Tac Padilla, son of many-time Olympian Tom Ong, is the proud owner of Spring Cooking Oil basketball team, which is making a big wave in the local sporting scene. To the father-and-son tandem, keep up the good work!

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUAT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Yearbook 2000 - San Francisco 49ers at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN

NFL Primetime at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN

NFL - Carolina Panthers vs San Francisco 49ers at 8:30 a.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: WTA Tour - Sparkassen Cup, Quarterfinal and Semifinal at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: Senior PGA Tour - Allianz Championship, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BADMINTON: Sydney International Badminton 2001, Event Highlights at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

SOCCER: Asian Super Cup 2001 - Suwon vs Al-Shabab (KSA) at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

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95. Ernesto Arcedera Rosaura De La Rosa Caltex Service Station
96. Ben Mendoza Angel De Castro Caltex Service Station
97. Marilyn Abesamis Dioscoro De Leon Jr. #1 Caltex Service Station
98. Phodalyn Q. Gonzales Dioscoro De Leon Jr. #2 Caltex Service Station
99. Rolaida Beltran Emily Cristina De Leon #2 Caltex Service Station
100. Anita Solayao Bonifacio Del Rosario Caltex Service Station
101. Nora Saludar Conrado Del Rosario Caltex Service Station
102. Ronaldo M. Anasco Dennis Claver Caltex Service Station
103. Jhonico Nisperos Jocelyn Sm Domoguen Caltex Service Station
104. Ric. Cando Marcelino Dominguez #2 Caltex Service Station
105. Leonard Panambo Marcelino Dominguez Caltex Service Station
106. Alfred Supan Double Al Caltex Service Station
107. Benjamin Mnalili Emily Cristina De Leon #1 Caltex Service Station
108. Rufino H. Tan Ed Guevarra #3 Caltex Service Station
109. Rowena H. Permon Edicer Almendras Caltex Service Station
110. Marcelo Atienza Nicomedes Egos Caltex Service Station
111. Pedro Caabalan Jr. Elamar Marketing Corp. Caltex Service Station
112. Fernando Detaunan Susan Entrata Caltex Service Station
113. Rodrigo Tulud Susan Entrata Caltex Service Station
114. Joelriel Alarcon Enercom #1 Caltex Service Station
115. Jonathan Gatan Enercom #5 Caltex Service Station
116. Dallsay T. Gonzaga Elmer Encarnacion Caltex Service Station
117. Rogelio Gaffardo Gregorio Espejo Caltex Service Station
118. Arnold P. Valdez Cecile Estioko Caltex Service Station
119. Hipolito Mislang Catherine Esguerra Caltex Service Station
120. Ganotice T. Wilson Sergio Estrella Caltex Service Station
121. Pacita Ong Baltazar Espiritu Caltex Service Station
122. Anna Aquino (TMCC) Geoffrey Esguerra Caltex Service Station
123. Emilian Villamayor Nestor Esguerra Caltex Service Station
124. Rolando B. Tesxon Ernel Espeleta Caltex Service Station
125. Guillermo E. Sunega Victor Hugo Eseo #2 Caltex Service Station
126. Delfin Castillo Patrocinio Encarnacion Caltex Service Station
127. Marica Lo Ge Espinas Caltex Service Station
128. Narciso B. Guevarra Marieta Evangelista Caltex Service Station
129. Arnel Pangillinan Excel Carport Caltex Service Station
130. Ramos Jessie Cortez Excel Carport #3 Caltex Service Station
131. Crisanto Albano Eric Farinas Caltex Service Station
132. Eduardo Tenoria Ivy Feliciano Caltex Service Station
133. Janet V. Sibaya Renato Ferrer Caltex Service Station
134. Ignacio S. Guevarra Caloy Francia Caltex Service Station
135. Corazon D. Falcon Ernesto Fonbuena Caltex Service Station
136. Joseph Guillermo First Coastal Fuel Corp. Caltex Service Station
137. Ruel Magno Joanne Fernandez Caltex Service Station
138. Edna C. Eugenio Joanne Fernandez Caltex Service Station
139. Melani R. Plandes Jaime Fresnedi Caltex Service Station
140. Restituto P. Soriano Gamaliel Flores Jr. Caltex Service Station
141. Roderick M. Garcia Gamaliel Flores Jr. Caltex Service Station
142. Quincy O. Diaz Mhendzid Ferrer Caltex Service Station
143. Renato A. Ramos Ma. Louella Famor Caltex Service Station
144. Fernando G. Felix Antonio Francisco Caltex Service Station

Winners

Caltex Service Station

145. Albert Gabriel First Coastal Fuel Corp. Caltex Service Station
146. Rommel G. Sumogat Jose Gurat Caltex Service Station
147. Ambo Campos Josephine Gacad #2 Caltex Service Station
148. Ali Panlaqui Edgar Galang Caltex Service Station
149. Gerry Alcisto Edgar Galang #3 Caltex Service Station
150. Mary D. Enriquez Antonio Gabaya Caltex Service Station
151. Jonathan A. Hangad Eva Marie Galvez Caltex Service Station
152. Jun G. Santiago Jose Gaspar Caltex Service Station
153. Christopher Armenia Jose Gaspar #2 Caltex Service Station
154. Loren Orendain Greenhills Car Care Center, Inc. Caltex Service Station
155. Alvin T. Ramos Mercedesita Garcia Caltex Service Station
156. Dayal Assnam Mercedesita Garcia Caltex Service Station
157. Joel G. Fernando Rufino Gapuz Caltex Service Station
158. Henry P. Nisperos George Enterprises Caltex Service Station
159. Modesto Llanera Genesis Car Care & Service Caltex Service Station
160. Angelina Mallari Nancy Go Caltex Service Station
161. Emmanuel M. Coronel Goldtrek Trading 1 Caltex Service Station
162. Manuel V. De Guzman Goldtrek Trading 2 Caltex Service Station
163. Rodolfo Cortez Goldstar Caltex Service Station
164. Elpidio Salamat Vicente Go #1 Caltex Service Station
165. Orlito Laganapan Vicente Go #2 Caltex Service Station
166. Jovita Pinero Rebecca Goopio Caltex Service Station
167. Julirta C. Rivero Juan Go Caltex Service Station
168. Rolly Mandani Immaculada Guerra Caltex Service Station
169. Matio Aquino James Gutierrez Caltex Service Station
170. Raymund A. Fabro Edgardo Guevarra #2 Caltex Service Station
171. Abelardo Palmero Edgardo Guevarra Caltex Service Station
172. Jeffrey P. Velderas Jerome Gutierrez Caltex Service Station
173. Reynaldo B. Largo Jr. Domiciano Hao Caltex Service Station
174. Salvador Tumanguil Isidoro Herrera - Ex-Lugod Caltex Service Station
175. Estilita Cruz Eduardo Hernandez Caltex Service Station
176. Rogelio G. Aroc Agapito Kong Hun Caltex Service Station
177. Manalito Gusi Juanita Ilagan Caltex Service Station
178. Albet Ilagan Juanita Ilagan Caltex Service Station
179. Carlo A. Maliwat Remedios Ignacio #1 Caltex Service Station
180. Aida A. Entosco Agustine Ipapo Caltex Service Station
181. Rufino C. Soriano Jr. Interior Ricardo # 2 Caltex Service Station
182. Arman J. Nobleza Interior Ricardo Caltex Service Station
183. Jocelyn B. Magbanua Edmund Uy Caltex Service Station
184. Juanito G. Feria Jerome Lapuz Caltex Service Station
185. Richard G. Magatao Susan Entrata Caltex Service Station
186. Belinda C. Melendres Victor Velilla #2 Caltex Service Station
187. Enrique Booc Dennis Navarro Caltex Service Station
188. Eduardo G. Go Citadel Comm'l Inc. Caltex Service Station
189. Teresita Joy P. Mercedesita Garcia Caltex Service Station
190. Mario Galang Ricardo Cruz Bernabe Caltex Service Station
191. Ryan A. Pawang Victor Hugo Eseo Caltex Service Station
192. Olympia Cabrera Victor Hugo Eseo Caltex Service Station
193. Jose Rementilla Joanne Fernandez Caltex Service Station
194. Ennonie M. Sepe Elmer Encarnacion Caltex Service Station
195. Rex Gravillo Eduardo Hernandez Caltex Service Station
196. Rolly Solis Archangel Opena Caltex Service Station
197. Daniel Guzman Pablito Isidro Caltex Service Station
198. Teresita C. Castro IMC Gas Corporation Caltex Service Station
199. Jimmy A. Razon John Luna # 2 Caltex Service Station

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203. Editha A. Castillon	Joselito D. Tecson Caltex Service Station
204. Vicente Pilibundo	Ignacio Juico Jr. Caltex Service Station
205. Fotunato Aniceto	Reynaldo Katigbak
Inandan III	Caltex Service Station
206. Roberto E. Canpana	Henry King Caltex Service Station
207. Yolanda R. Munar	Joselito Ladaban #1 Caltex Service Station
208. Dennis Nicolas	Joselito Ladaban #3 Caltex Service Station
209. NSI Samput	Juanito Lao Caltex Service Station
Paniqui, Tarlac	Carmencita Lao Caltex Service Station
210. Pob. 2, Moncada Tarlac	Mary Lao Caltex Service Station
211. Clarissa L. Nycoco	Leonard Lao Caltex Service Station
212. Roberto Chavez	Jerome Lapuz Caltex Service Station
213. Emilio Reyes III	La Trinidad MJ Traders Caltex Service Station
214. Aquiles Pulas	Nixon Lee Caltex Service Station
215. Bienvenido Del Mundo	Benedict Lee #1 Caltex Service Station
216. Meryl Brinosa	Benedict Lee #2 Caltex Service Station
217. Jocelyn Mariano	Bernabe Liang Caltex Service Station
218. Nilo D. Enad	Dolores Libiran Caltex Service Station
219. Edilbelio E. Lantin	Ferdinand Liwag Caltex Service Station
220. Florante Padiernos	Leonida Limpingo Caltex Service Station
221. Edwardo I. Agbayani	Hilarion Limjoco Caltex Service Station
222. Anna Laus David	Benjamin Lim Caltex Service Station
223. Ma. Editha S. Valdez	Benjamin Limqueco Jr. Caltex Service Station
224. Micheal Brigado	Linkage Realty Caltex Service Station
225. Rossana P. Padasin	Lina Fonbuena Perez Caltex Service Station
226. Sonia C. Ricafrente	Celerina Lindog Caltex Service Station
227. Lorna D. de Castro	Winefredo Lindog Caltex Service Station
228. Nenett Anacion	Pamela Lindog Caltex Service Station
229. Benn Z. Vidal	Emmanuel Liwag #2 Caltex Service Station
230. Enrico J. Garcia	Lorraine Gay Liwag Caltex Service Station
231. Mercedita Ofarte	Emmanuel Liwag #1 Caltex Service Station
232. Lawrence Albert	Emelita Liwanag # 1 Caltex Service Station
233. Ma. Diwata Sayco	Emelita Liwanag # 2 Caltex Service Station
234. Rachel Valerie Go	Alberto Llamas Caltex Service Station
235. Rolex Macapugay	Lora Lorente Caltex Service Station
236. Lunario C. Piccay	Oliver Lua Caltex Service Station
237. Joel G. Norcos	Benita Lui #1 Caltex Service Station
238. Cornelia L. Flores	Benita Lui #3 Caltex Service Station
239. Virgilio Aspillagar	Reynaldo Martir Caltex Service Station
240. Freddie Reyes	Arlene Malaluan Caltex Service Station
241. Marilyn A. Viray	Malolos Caltex Inc. Caltex Service Station
242. Reynaldo Herrera Sr.	Arnulfo Malibiran Caltex Service Station
243. Alejandro V. Santos	Imelda Marzan Caltex Service Station
244. Billa C. Averion	Virgilio Mallari Caltex Service Station
245. Rolando Bengejan	Antonio Magalzo Jr. Caltex Service Station
246. Tesio Antonio	Elenita Mababangloob Caltex Service Station
247. Marie Antoinette Romero	Marian Sheila A. Lee Caltex Service Station
248. Pilar G. Castro	Carlos Madrilejos Caltex Service Station
249. Corazon C. Marcos	Charity Mendoza Caltex Service Station
250. Jordan Gil M. Navicog	Charity Mendoza Caltex Service Station
251. Jordan Gil M. Navicog	Almario Mendoza Caltex Service Station
252. Rodolfo G. Salonga	Beatriz Medina Caltex Service Station
253. Larry M. delos Santos	Gregoria Mendoza Caltex Service Station
254. Cely Tan	Dominador Mendoza Caltex Service Station
255. Jocelyn Jalique	Midway Caltex Service Station
256. Faustino T. Mariebay	Jocelyn Monasterio Caltex Service Station
257. Micheal Naron	Troy Francis Monasterio Caltex Service Station
258. Evelyn V. Samaniego	Rommel Naguiat Caltex Service Station
259. Rebecca B. Lim	

Winners	Caltex Service Station
260. Geraldo dela Cruz	Rommel Navarro Caltex Service Station
261. Cirilo Necesano	Rommel Navarro Caltex Service Station
262. Enriquez H. Samonte	Leonardo Navarro Caltex Service Station
263. Eduardo Besanno	Catalino Naz Caltex Service Station
264. Andrew Ryan Di	Erlinda Nepomuceno Caltex Service Station
265. Tin Lunkua	Erlinda Nepomuceno Caltex Service Station
266. Napoleon Salvania	Nestor Esguerra Caltex Service Station
267. Chris R. Dumagos	Norman Pamintuan Caltex Service Station
268. Nollito Frioco	North Atlantic Inc. Caltex Service Station
269. Biang Cavite	Zosimo Noche Caltex Service Station
270. Antonio Morelos Jr.	OMC Trading Corp. Caltex Service Station
271. Myrna R. Hidalgo	Tomas Ong Caltex Service Station
272. Genny C. Cepeda	Tomas Ong Caltex Service Station
273. Mateo Joel Endaya	Archangel Opara Caltex Service Station
274. Andres F. Aquino	Rosalyn Paguyo Caltex Service Station
275. Rico Maynard Yambao	Celerina Pallarca Caltex Service Station
276. Erwin A. Villanueva	Norman Pamintuan Caltex Service Station
277. Romeo L. Almada	Pamplona Carport, Inc. Caltex Service Station
278. Milla Saavedra	Pasong Tamo Carport Caltex Service Station
279. Abigail Espina	Ferdinand Paranal Caltex Service Station
280. Artemio Sumait	Eriberto Palomar Caltex Service Station
281. Fernando de Guzman	Tribiana Pelagia Caltex Service Station
282. Francisco S. Recto	Petroleum Distributors & Caltex Service Station
283. Buhay P. Patulos	Nena Penaroyo Caltex Service Station
284. Rodelio Madla	Raymond Pineda Caltex Service Station
285. Medel Lamit	Jijibeth Pimentel Caltex Service Station
286. John Michel T. Lu	Marcelo Platon Caltex Service Station
287. Melchor Tumbaga	Prisca Polo Caltex Service Station
288. Alfonso B. Bonifacio	Joseph Pplicarpio Caltex Service Station
289. Joel Rano	Roland Ponce Caltex Service Station
290. Adriano Cuevas	Rustico Purificacion Caltex Service Station
291. Vilma Rogelio	Lazara Quijano Caltex Service Station
292. Benigno Santos	Quinta-G Caltex Service Station
293. Mat Leonardo S. Racelos	Quinta-G Motorist Center Inc.
294. Leo P. Cruz	Ulysses Rapatalo #2 Caltex Service Station
295. Gregorio B. Paras	Rael Kitz Corporation Caltex Service Station
296. Teofilo M. Doria	Rael Kitz Corporation Caltex Service Station
297. Antonio V. Sanchez	Alejandro Ramos Caltex Service Station
298. Isidro Tolentino	Marjorie Ramos Caltex Service Station
299. Jose Noel D. Mercado	Manotok Ramon Caltex Service Station
300. Ma. Theresa G. Aparejo	Lorenzo Regencia Caltex Service Station
301. Felipe S. Carreon	Reinaldo Agustin #2 Caltex Service Station
302. Noel Deogracia	Nimuel Revillosa Caltex Service Station
303. Mely Castro	Jorge Roque Caltex Service Station
304. Albert I. Casipit	Leon Rivera Caltex Service Station
305. Juanito N. Vicente	Ricardo Cruz #2 Caltex Service Station
306. Noel Dominguez	Pablo Rizalino Caltex Service Station
307. Cezar S. Solleza	RJJ Petrol Industries Inc. Caltex Service Station
308. Analyn T. Tacad	Santiago Rondaris Caltex Service Station
309. Criselda L. Dunga	Rolando Domingo Caltex Service Station
310. Leo Manaois	Jorge Joseph Roque Caltex Service Station
311. Miguel Malgapo	Jorge Relucio Caltex Service Station
312. Micheal R. Isagon	Pancho Rodriguez Caltex Service Station
313. Pamela M. Java	Rosal Rosemarie #1 Caltex Service Station
314. Ronaldo Arcega	Rosal Rosemarie #2 Caltex Service Station
315. Joan Coronacion	Ruben Romantico #2 Caltex Service Station
316. Estelita M. Tan	Eric T. Robles Caltex Service Station
317. Eddie Orona Jr.	Josefina Roldan Caltex Service Station
318. Rosalie Desamparado	RO: Winefred Tan Caltex Service Station
319. Ramon D. Machica	RO: Carlos J. Mendoza Caltex Service Station
320. Ricardo Abando	RO: Gina Paras Caltex Service Station

Winners	Caltex Service Station
321. Arnel R. Romero	RO: Julieta S. Tenoria Caltex Service Station
322. Leliosa C. Biraogo	RO: Marilyn Papio Caltex Service Station
323. Robert Neola	RO: Emma Mercado Caltex Service Station
324. Remelinda Laddaran	Virginia Savellano Caltex Service Station
325. Guillermo Galla	Eliza Santos Caltex Service Station
326. Annaliza Buerisucoso	Christopher Sampang Caltex Service Station
327. Richard Morelos	Ma. Lourdes Santos #2 Caltex Service Station
328. Hector Velasquez	Miriam Evel Salazar Caltex Service Station
329. Manuel Camilo Miel	Amando San Juan Caltex Service Station
330. Ramon Magalang	Ana Santos Caltex Service Station
331. Annabel De Leon	Mercedes Santos Caltex Service Station
332. Ruby Celeste	Evangeline Santos Caltex Service Station
333. Sedigario Cadillo	Grace Santos Caltex Service Station
334. Alvin Ricafort	Leopoldo Sanchez Caltex Service Station
335. Stephen Sayson	Santi Car Services, Inc. Caltex Service Station
336. Adolfo Abragan	William Sanao Caltex Service Station
337. Reynaldo Go	Liesel Sanao Caltex Service Station
338. Leah L. dela Cruz	William Sanao Caltex Service Station
339. Guillermo R. Rodriguez	Jane Severino Caltex Service Station
340. Ma. Cecilia Tomarong	Nerissa F. Sheik Caltex Service Station
341. Rommel Corpuz	Cora Sikat Caltex Service Station
342. Benny Cristobal	Aladin Simundac Caltex Service Station
343. Wilson Ng	Mariejoy Sia So Caltex Service Station
344. Micheal Mendoza	Southgate Service Center Caltex Service Station
345. Joel Magpantay	Avelina Sosa Caltex Service Station
346. Dante Liveto Sr.	Benjamin Solomon Caltex Service Station
347. Larnan T. Uy	Gloria Tamuyao Caltex Service Station
348. Tom Hillario	Santiago Tabanda #2 Caltex Service Station
349. Lindo P. Rempojo	Santiago Tabanda #3 Caltex Service Station
350. Bartholemew Lingayo	John Tarnate Caltex Service Station
351. John Garcia	Joy Tan Caltex Service Station
352. Rafael Co	Shirley Tapas Caltex Service Station
353. Leo Tioseco	Mario Tang Caltex Service Station
354. Danilo Gorgon	Beatriz Tang Caltex Service Station
355. Anita M. Bautista	Wilson Tan Caltex Service Station
356. Marie Magdalena Lagundi	Carlo Tantiongco Caltex Service Station
357. Felomena Olivarez	Carlos Martin Tanjuatco Caltex Service Station
358. Asunsion Bersamina	Evelina Taroma - Aquino Caltex Service Station
359. Erasino Mendoza	Teodoro Marquez # 2 Caltex Service Station
360. Ernesto Conception	Teodoro Marquez # 1 Caltex Service Station
361. Simeon Murillo	Teresa Nocom Caltex Service Station
362. Jamie Villegas	Tessie Ablan Caltex Service Station
363. Leonardo Saguid	Pedro Tiongson Caltex Service Station
364. Benny de los Santos	Marilyn Timtiman #1 Caltex Service Station
365. Ruferto Edralin	Marilyn Timtiman #2 Caltex Service Station
366. Maribeth del Rosario	Nazareth Tuazon Caltex Service Station
367. Antonio Nicerio	William Torres Caltex Service Station
368. Lourdes Bayot	Jacinto Tomacruz Caltex Service Station
369. Neil Gutierrez	Joselito Tomacruz Caltex Service Station
370. Anancacion Joson	T. Cavestany Caltex Service Station
371. Rosie Bayas	Elena Tolentino Caltex Service Station
372. Noralyn S. Nocon	Dorotea Prudente Trias Caltex Service Station
373. Robert Garcia	Urdaneta Caltex Centrum Caltex Service Station
374. Bella Madarang	Celia Uy Caltex Service Station
375. Carlito Ignacio	Edmund Uy Caltex Service Station
376. Adolfo Castillo	Nelia Uy Caltex Service Station
377. Ybada B. Carbonell	Rogelio Ugay Caltex Service Station
378. Dionisio Juan Tumaneng	Urdaneta Motorist Caltex Service Station
379. Allan Nigoza	Rosario Ureta Caltex Service Station
380. Bien Alipio	Amado Valena Caltex Service Station
381. Reynaldo Pevida	Rosalinda Valencia Caltex Service Station
382. Ruben Serrena Jr.	Victor Vellia Caltex Service Station
383. Maximo Virtucio	Mignonette Victoria Caltex Service Station
384. Florence Y. Delos Reyes	Victor Vellia Caltex Service Station
385. Rommel Banta	Manuel Villarta Caltex Service Station
386. Eduardo Buenafe	Herman Villalobos Caltex Service Station
387. Elizabeth Cuizon	Antonio Violago Caltex Service Station
388. Lucito E. Santos Jr.	Wilfredo Pelino # 2 Caltex Service Station
389. Rafael Bunag	Jose Yap Caltex Service Station
390. Gerardo Lo	Pacita Yao Caltex Service Station
391. Ronan C. Santiago	Reynaldo Jesus Yambao Caltex Service Station
392. Ramon I. Famorcan	Gloria Yulo Caltex Service Station
393. Anabelle M. Abad	Francisco Yulo Caltex Service Station

*Winners as of October 1, 2001.

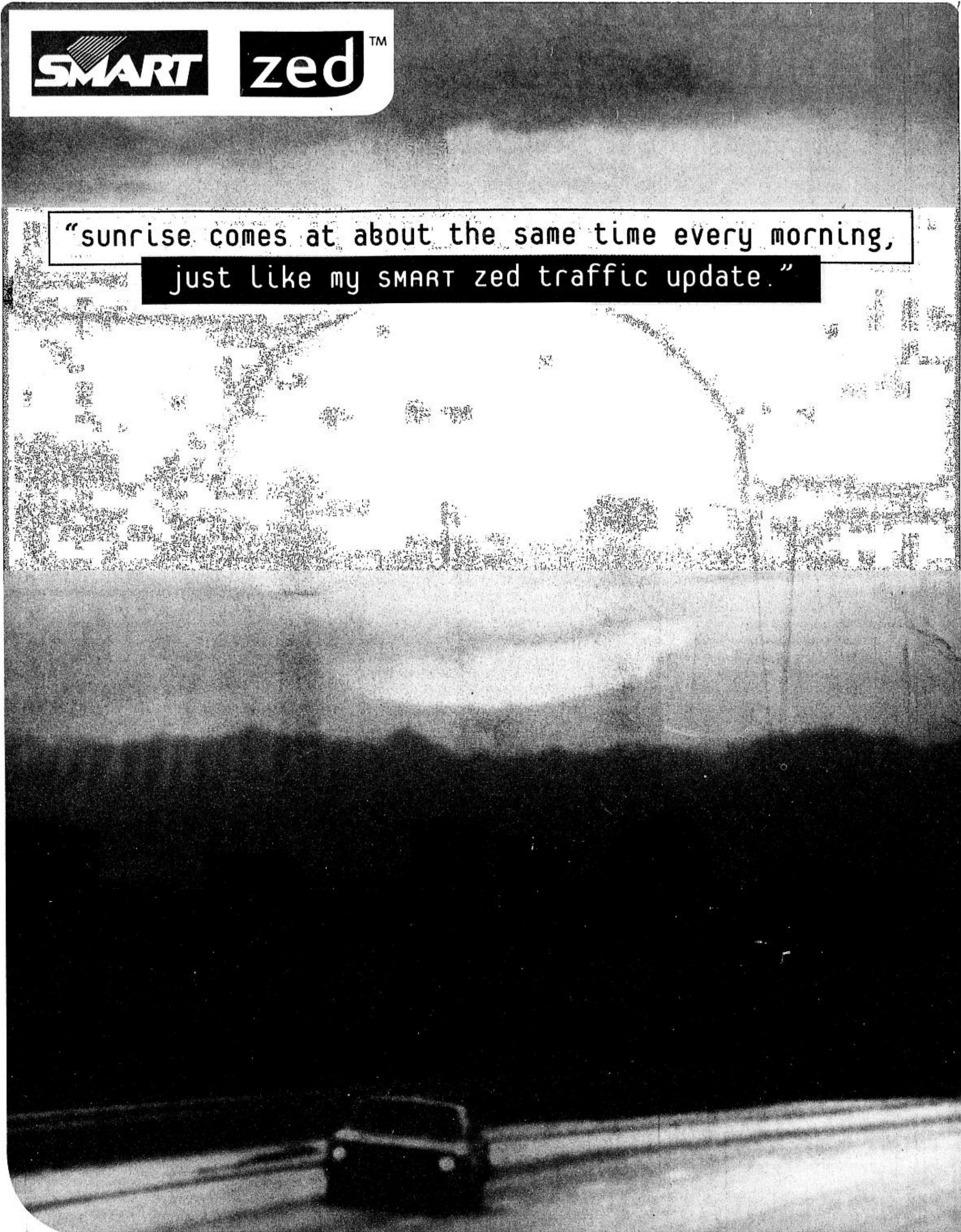
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0993 Series of 2001



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- Suspect makes BI chief fume A27
 ■ Last drinks for 2
 videoke bar customers A27

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

VALENZUELA KIDNAPPING

Old patrol jeep, siren vs M-16s



BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

ON BOARD their old patrol jeep and armed only with courage, three members of the Bantay Bayan in Valenzuela City desperately tried to abort the apparent kidnapping of three men by seven armed men near the boundary of Valenzuela and Quezon City on Friday.

Bantay Bayan patrolmen Ismael Alberio, Domingo Gallos and Robert de la Cruz also turned on their siren to scare the suspects whom they saw blocking the path of a Toyota Revo with a black Nissan Sentra car and another car of unknown make about 11:20 p.m. on Friday. The armed suspects ordered the Revo's three male occupants to get off the vehicle at the

"WE LOVE him very much," son Renzo said of his father Ricky Belmonte before the latter's burial.

DENNIS SABANGAN

'My father was loved'

Story on page 26

OLD PATROL/A27

WAZZZZUP? ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	PIDO W/ TAKE 1 (OCTOBER 8, MONDAY) 634.7696/98	MULATTO OCT. 9
BUMA 5591 KAWAGONS ST. JAKARTI	MUSIC MAKING CO. 896.2116/896.1939	
CHATTERBOX WEST 41 WEST AVE. QUEZON CITY	WORKSHOP JOHN LAPUS OCT. 20 411.3650/374.3750	
COORAY 8801 ALMENZA LAS P. MAS	HOMOSAPIENS PUZZLES 801.7644	
COORAY 1150 ARQUEZA ST. MARINA	MUZIC CIRCUIT FAT 16/BROWNE 525.1474/525.4269	
COORAY 4111 MIDWINTER ST. MELATE	MR. ROXY HERZ NO ENTRANCE FEE 521.8143	
COORAY KUMARICHES ST. Q.C.	J BROTHERS KNIGHTS/GOALKEYS 933.6.9757	
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant NOR. HERRERA ST. MONTEJO	PORK CHOP SHARMAINE SANTIAGO 373.3333	
Friends @ the Square ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	PAOLO SANTOS 635.0279	
KAMPO 2006 847 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	MUZIK JIVE DEGREE/LAFFATAK 373.5110/373.7181	
LITE n' LIVE 552 EXAMINER ST. Q.C.	ENTITY AQ'S ACE OF HEART 373.2221/373.7183	
MUSIC WAREHOUSE UNDAKADZ RD. ORTIGAS CTR.	POWER OF 2 PREVIEW 735.12800/735.1405	
MINI AVE MUNDO RD. ORTIGAS CTR.	SOUTHBORDER! METROFACE MODELS	
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST. MARIKINA CITY	VERSE-2 SOUTHBORDER OCT. 9 AT REMEDIOS	
FOREST Cafe, Grill Restaurant TAYLOR ST. LUNTA, MARIL	PARK AVENUE DRINK ALL U CAN P.195+ 5-8 PM / 4.0 Q.7438	
COORAY BINANGAL LAGUNA	OFF FEET HIMIG NO ENTRANCE FEE (049) 512.7268	
THE VENUE JAVAO JACINTO EXH. DRIVE	NOTY NOTES PATRICIA JAVIER OCT. 31 (082) 224.4150	
	MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 912-8983	

Colorum buses on Edsa will be impounded-MMMDA

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said colorum buses would be impounded by the MMMDA as part of its campaign to ease traffic along Edsa and

other major thoroughfares in the metropolis. Abalos said about 3,000 buses illegally ply the Edsa-Monumento route

COLORUM BUSES/A27



Question of the Week
October 6-12

Ano ang tunay na pangalan ni Darna?

1. Narda
2. Adarna
3. Wonder Woman



Ang daling sumali!

To earn a raffle entry, you must answer 2 questions correctly.

- 1 Dial 135-1 para i-text ang sagot sa Question of the Week.*
- 2 Kung tama ang sagot mo, hintayin ang second question.
- 3 Para sagutin ang second question, ibaba ang telepono at muling i-dial ang 135-1.
- 4 Kung tama ang sagot mo, i-text ang pangalan at birthday. For example:
 • Name Entry: Dan Ty
 Press 3 once for the letter D, press 2 once for the letter A, press 6 two times for the letter N. Press 0 for space. Press 8 once for the letter T, press 9 three times for the letter Y. Press # two times to submit your name.
 • Birthday Entry: July 13, 1965
 Press 07131965 to submit your birthday.
- 5 If you want to send more entries, dial ka uli ng 135-1 at i-text ang sagot. Entries should be sent from 6:00 am to 12:00 mn. Abangan ang resulta ng bola sa newspapers o sa mail.

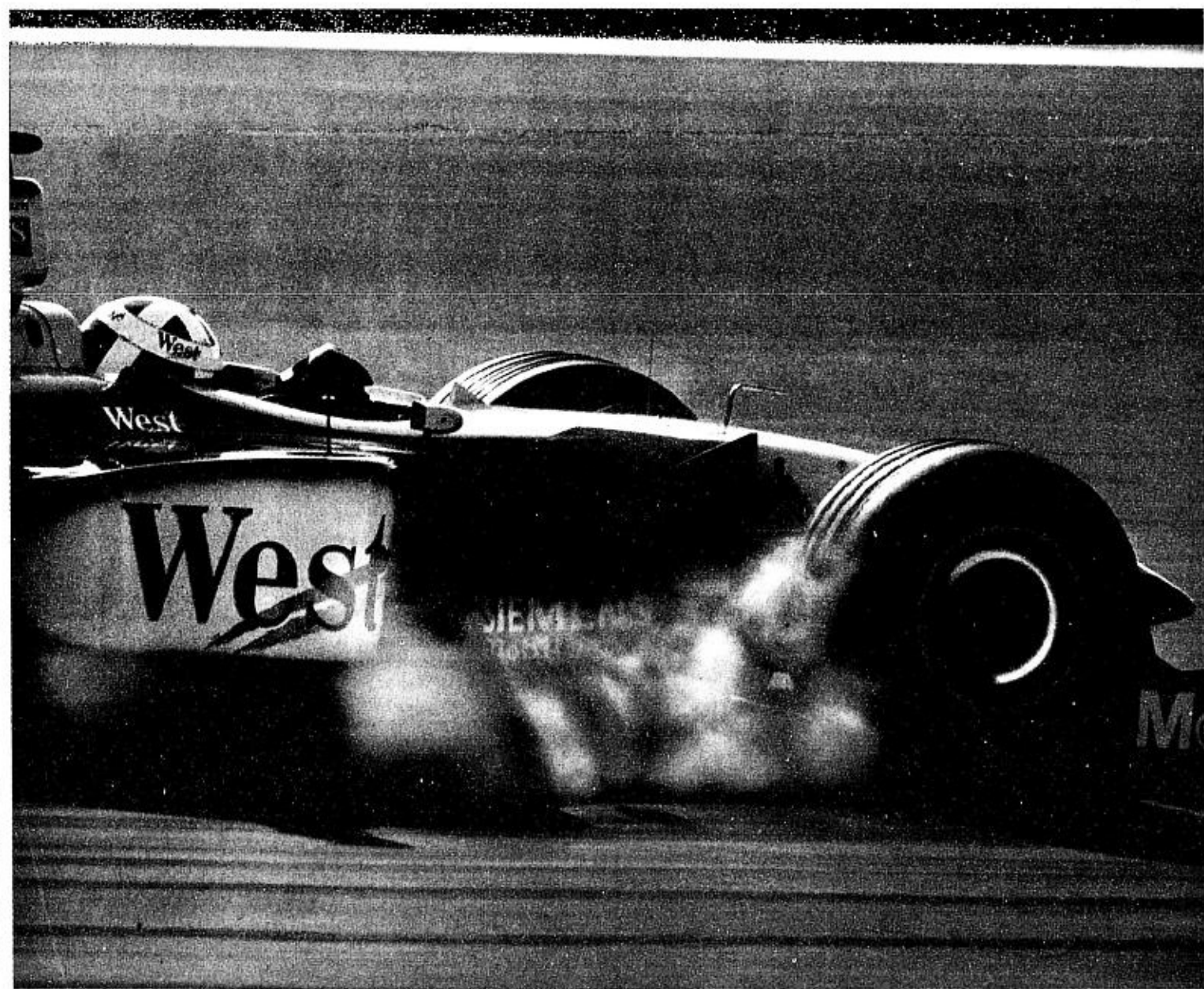
Araw-araw ang bola, milyon-milyon ang pera!

*TXT 135 service must be activated to join the promo.
 Call 171 for inquiries. Each text message costs only P2.00!
 Promo period from August 12 to November 16, 2001.
 See leaflet for details. Per DTI-MCR Permit No. 1257, Series of 2001.



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The biggest black-eye of all

SPEAKING very frankly, officials of the Philippine boxing team in last month's Southeast Asian Games said they did not know what hit them. They just got socked hard and sharp. They also landed flat on the floor.

It's therefore not easy to assess the immensity of the problem brought home by the failed Philippine amateur boxing team from the Kuala Lumpur campaign.

Remember that the boxers, for the first time in our 24-year participation, failed to land a single gold medal in their last stint in the Southeast Asian Games.

That record failure, no doubt, has posed a monumental problem to everybody involved, from boxing team officials and sponsors down to plain fans.

Everybody has a reason to be worried. After all, our boxers, who have so far succeeded in winning the country's only two "near golds" (silvers, in plain terms) in the Olympics, always get the unenviable task of winning the biggest honors for the Philippines in interna-

tional competitions.

In the KL meet, the best the boxers could bag were two silver medals which, anyway you looked at it, were anything but "near golds."

Featherweight Ramil Zambales, for one, managed to automatically get his silver medal without having had to throw a single punch.

Drawing a first-round bye, a lazy non-feat that got him an automatic bronze, Zambales next moved into the finals proper after his scheduled opponent failed to show up.

Zambales therefore picked up his silver medal on a walkover. He could have sort of acquitted himself, but Zambales got terribly bloodied in that forgettable go for the gold.

The other boxing silver medal in the KL Games came courtesy of Arlan Lerio. Well, if it could be any measure of his frustration, Lerio has sought the help of his benefactor, North Cotabato Gov. Manny

BARE EYE

Recall Trinidad



Piñol, upon returning from the Malaysian capital. Lerio has wanted to turn pro.

We won't let this one drag. The task of fully baring what happened to our boxers in Kuala Lumpur fell on the team coach, veteran internationalist George. Caliwan.

Groaned coach Caliwan: "We couldn't explain. We really don't know, hindi namin talaga malaman kung ano ang nangyari."

Well, if they had bothered to award post-Games honors for can-

didness, Caliwan would've bagged it hands-down.

Caliwan, who ought to know everything we should know about the failed boxing campaign in Kuala Lumpur, mouthed his very honest lines on the Tuesday night TV talk show, "Pulsong Masa," hosted by Erik Espina on the National Broadcasting Network (NBN).

In fairness to Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez, he gave no alibis. Upon returning home, Lopez humbly admitted the record failure; although there was one point in the KL series when he had threatened to walk out.

Lopez might have felt they were being cheated after lightweight Larry Semillano, who had started out strong, lost on a close points decision to a Malaysian who drew the nod of the judges via a determined and inspired finish.

Coach Caliwan, by the way, would also claim that, prior to the KL stint,

they had been to international meets where the Filipino fighters performed creditably.

Caliwan in his statement had also unwittingly admitted his blindness.

He led his team to Kuala Lumpur relying mainly on an outdated fighting style that often emphasized launching punches from the shoulder, not unlike professional baseball pitchers.

That style of punching, to repeat, was light years behind the successful near-art adopted by the very successful Thais who won their second straight Olympic gold medal in Sydney last year.

The idea, and this is being mentioned here for maybe the sixth time, is to launch punches from below the navel, the original seat of power. This is the style perfected by some of the most successful practitioners of the manly art, from Muhammad Ali to Sugar Ray Leonard down to Julio Cesar Chavez and the incredible, unbeaten world light flyweight champ Ricardo Lopez.

There are, of course, a lot of other ingredients that go into a sure winning formula.

For one, we did hire a Cuban coach almost simultaneously with Thailand. Unfortunately for the Philippines,

we took in Raul Liranza, a tense, unforgetting drillmaster who over-emphasized stamina and hitting power.

Thailand hired the cool but foxy Juan Fontanil, who raised a stable of rangy, cunning world-beaters who developed an instinct for pinpoint scoring.

The Kuala Lumpur campaign again bared the result of the two contrasting schools.

Thailand paraded in a talented group of tall, young winners.

The Philippines was stuck with a team of short, recycled internationalists who fell easy prey to their Thai counterparts.

More often than not, our boxers were also ill at ease in their respective weight classes.

Yes, the biggest blackeye in the Kuala Lumpur was suffered by Filipino boxers who remained our biggest, brightest hopes in international competitions.

Their dismal failure in the last Southeast Asian Games was a big step backward in the quest by the Philippines for a first Olympic gold medal.

But don't tell that to the Philippine Sports Commission which, with the dollar-rich backing of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, had succeeded in fooling the public that the RP stint in the 21st Southeast Asian Games was a resounding success.

'My father was loved'

By MARINEL R. CRUZ

"MY FATHER was loved because he helped a lot of people when he was still alive," Renzo Cruz said in Filipino just before his father Ricky Belmonte was buried alongside his own parents yesterday. "My siblings and I love him very much."

But Renzo was the only one of Belmonte's three children to bury the movie star whose real name is Jesus "Jessie" Cruz. Daughter Sheryl and son Patrick and their mother, Belmonte's ex-wife Rosemarie Sonora, are all in the United States and earlier said they could not come home.

Belmonte's bronze casket was entombed at noon in the Cruz family mausoleum at the La Loma Cemetery in Quezon City. While his relatives grieved, about 200 people milled outside, including a group from Bulacan who had been there since Saturday night.

Belmonte was buried alongside his father Edgar and mother Milagros.

A Mass was said earlier at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Makati. Renzo (formerly known as Wowie), tearfully expressed gratitude for the

support his relatives and fans gave his family.

His mother's sister, actress Susan Rocas, was present with her husband, action king Fernando Poe Jr.

"Ricky was a very jolly person," Poe said. "Masarap siyang kasama."

To nephew Eumir Cruz, Belmonte was a "kind and loving" uncle. "He was a very compassionate man, always ready to help others."

One of the fans who attended the burial was Linda Corales, who said she came all the way from Baliwag, Bulacan. She said she tried to go to his wake at the Loyola Memorial Chapels but she got lost.

Corales said her neighbors in Bulacan had been holding a vigil at the mausoleum since Saturday night.

Belmonte died of a massive stroke at the Parañaque Medical Center at 4 a.m. last Wednesday. He had been in a coma since dawn two Sundays ago.

Before his death, he was part of the cast of "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," an ABS-CBN daily soap. He was also the founder and manager of the 747 Band.

SAN BEDA COLLEGE

Mendiola, Manila



The BEDANS OF THE CENTURY

(1901 - 2001)

The awarding ceremonies will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2001 at three o'clock in the afternoon at the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat, Mendiola, Manila

1902-1911

1. ALFREDO CARMELO, CI 1903 **
2. MANUEL DE LA FUENTE, CI 1903 **
3. BASILIO J. VALDEZ, CS 1903 **
4. SABINO PADILLA, CS 1904 **
5. FEDERICO CALERO, CM 1905 **
6. GREGORIO PERFECTO, CS 1905 **
7. MANUEL T. MAÑOSA, AB 1908

1912-1921

8. ROBERTO R. CONCEPCION, AB 1920 **

1922-1931

9. ALBERTO GUEVARA, HS 1922
10. JESUS S. CABARRUS, HS 1927

1932-1941

11. ANTONIO ROXAS-CHUA, GS 1932
12. CHARLES BORCK, GS 1933 **
13. JOSE B. FERNANDEZ, EC 1933 **
14. CARLOS D. ARGUELLES, HS 1935
15. RAMON A. ESTELLA, AA 1933 **
16. JOSE MARIA ZARAGOZA, HS 1934
17. JOSEFINO Y. CENIZAL, AA 1935
18. RODRIGO C. DANA, HS 1935
19. ANTONIO C. DELGADO, HS 1935
20. ROBERTO VILLANUEVA, HS 1935 **
21. FRANCISCO C. DELGADO, AA 1937
22. EUGENIO R. REYES, HS 1937
23. LEODADIO DE ASIS, AA 1938
24. DOMINGO F. IMPERIAL, GS 1939 **
25. ARTURO D. LUZ, GS 1940
26. JOSE MANUEL MEILY Jr., BSC 1941 **

1942-1951

27. FLORENCIO CAMPOMANES, HS 1942
28. OBED JOSE G. MENESES, HS 1942
29. ARTURO RIUS, BSC 1942
30. ERIC S. GIRON, HS 1946 *
31. EUGENIO M. LOPEZ Jr., HS 1946
32. MANUEL T. MAÑOSA Jr., HS 1946
33. ENRIQUE H. DAVILA Jr., HS 1947
34. HOWARD Q. DEE, HS 1947
35. BENIGNO S. AQUINO, Jr., HS 1948
36. RAUL P. DE GUZMAN, HS 1948
37. OLAF S. GIRON, HS 1948 *

38. WILFREDO D. NOLLEDO, GS 1948
39. FEDERICO ALCUAZ, HS 1949
40. FRANCISCO T. MAÑOSA, HS 1949
41. ANTONIO B. NEBRIDA, HS 1949
42. IGNACIO S. SANTIAGO, HS 1949
43. RUBEN M. TANSECO, SJ, HS 1949
44. MARIO D. CAMACHO, HS 1950
45. ANDREW L. GOTIANUN, ACS 1950

46. AGAPITO A. AQUINO, GS 1951

47. EDISON T. CO SETENG, HS 1951

48. BENJAMIN S. FARRALES, HS 1951

49. JOSE T. MAÑOSA, HS 1951

50. VICTOR C. ORTEGA, HS 1951

1952-1961

51. FELICIANO R. BELMONTE Jr., HS 1952

52. ANTONIO G. MANIKAN, HS 1952

53. PONCIANO B. SALDAÑA, BSC 1952

54. ABELARDO V. D. TAN, LLB 1952

55. BERNARDO P. FERNANDEZ, LLB 1953

56. HONORIO B. GARCIA, LLB 1953 *

57. EDUARDO C. LIM, BSC 1953

58. ANTONIO MARTINEZ, LLB 1953 *

59. RAMON V. MITRA, LLB 1953

60. RONALD ALLAN K. POE (FPJ), GS 1953 *

61. JUSTO P. TORRES, LLB 1953

62. RENATO L. DE LA FUENTE, AB 1954

63. TOMAS B. GOMEZ III, AA 1954 *

64. CARLOS M. LOYZAGA, HS 1954

65. ANTONIO E.B. NACHURA, LLB 1954

66. JOSE U. ONG, LLB 1954

67. AURELIO O. PERIQUET Jr., BSC 1954

68. FLORENZ D. REGALADO, LLB 1954

69. AUGUSTO S. SANCHEZ, AB 1954

70. JOSE D. BALTAZAR, BSC 1955

71. JOSE O. CASAS, AB 1955

72. AUGUSTO C. LAGMAN, HS 1956

73. ROGELIO P. MENDIOLA, HS 1956

74. ISMAEL A. MATHAY Jr., LLB 1957

75. ENRIQUE D. PEREZ, LLB 1957

76. LUCIANO P. SANTIAGO, HS 1957

77. TYRONE M. REYES, HS 1958

78. GEORGE T. YANG, HS 1958

79. JOSE G. ARAULLO, BSC 1959

80. GABRIEL S. CASAL, AB 1959

81. WILLIAM F. CLAYER, LLB 1960 *

82. RAUL L. CONTRERAS, AB 1960

83. RAMON L. ARCADIO, HS 1960

84. VICENTE C. DINGLASAN, AB 1960

85. PETER B. FAVILA, GS 1960

86. SUSANO F. GONZALES, AB 1960 **

87. ANTONINO S. RAYMUNDO, HS 1960

88. RODOLFO G. VALENCIA, HS 1960

89. DEOGRACIAS L. VISTAN, HS 1960

90. ALFRED A. YUSON, HS 1960

91. ROMEO J. CALLEJO, LLB 1961

92. AVELINO V. CRUZ, LLB 1961

93. WILFRIDO V. VILLACORTA, HS 1961

1962-1971

94. JAIME T. LICAUCO, AB 1962

95. TARCISIO MA. NARCISO, OSB, AB 1962

96. MANUEL V. PANGILINAN, HS 1962

97. ALBERTO VILLA-ABRILLE, Jr., HS 1962

98. RENE A. V. SAGUISAG, LLB 1963

99. RAUL S. ROCCO, LLB 1964

100. EDUARDO Ma. AFRICA, OSB, HS 1965

101. BENILDUS MARAMBA, OSB, AB 1965

102. SIXTO S. BRILLANTES Jr., LLB 1965

103. ROLANDO J. TRIA-TIRONA, AB 1965

104. TOMAS P. AFRICA, HS 1966

105. JAIME Z. GÁLVEZ TAN, HS 1966

106. RAMON R. MEDINA, AB 1966

107. PABLO S. TRILLANA III, LLB 1966

108. RODOLFO D. ROBLES, LLB 1967

109. FRANKLIN M. BOBADILLA, HS 1968

110. SAMSON C. LIM, HS 1968

111. ANTONIO N. TORRALBA, AB 1968 *

112. RICARDO L. SALUDO, GS 1969

113. ANTONIO G. VIJUNGCO, HS 1969

114. EUGENIO R. VILLALUZ, AB 1969

115. EDMUNDO R. BADOLATO, BSC 1970

116. ROBERT B. FELEO, HS 1971

117. ARTHUR P. TUGADE, LLB 1971

1972-1981

118. ANGELITO T. ALEJANDRO, HS 1972

119. ENRIQUE A. GOMEZ Jr., BSC 1972

120. GERARDO A. ROSARIO, GS 1972

121. JORGE MA. Q. CONCEPCION, HS 1973

122. GUALBERTO Z. CUNA III, HS 1973

123. FERMIN R. DE LEON Jr., HS 1973

124. LUISITO F. PASCUA, HS 1973

125. ROBERTO G. COYUOTO, JR. BSC 1974

126. CARLOS I. LASA, HS 1974

127. FERDINAND T. SANTOS, LLB 1974

128. EDGARDO G. VAZQUEZ, BSC 1974

129. JOEL L. BAÑARES, HS 1975

130. GABRIEL F. CONSULTA, HS 1975

131. OSCAR S. MORENO, LLB 1975

132. E. NONATO N. JOSON, LLB 1977

133. JOSE MA. P. BALMACEDA, HS 1978

134. RODOLFO C. VERA, HS 1978

135. BENJAMIN T. TOLOSA Jr., HS 1979

136. R. RICARDO A. ROQUE, BSC 1980

1982-1991

137. ULPIANO P. SARMIENTO III, LLB 1982

138. ANTONIO P. AFRICA, HS 1982

139. CALVIN B. MILLADO, BSC 1991

1992-2001

140. HERBERT M. BAUTISTA, AB 1992

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, October 8, 2001
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:

Gospel:

A teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said, "Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Scripture? How do you understand it?" The man answered, "It is written: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" Jesus replied, "What a good answer! Do this and you shall live." The man wanted to keep up appearances, so he replied, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus then said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half dead.

It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but

Suspect makes BI chief fume

IF IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo can have her way, suspected pedophile Yukitoshi Matsushita, 53, will end up not only behind bars but in death row for allegedly forcing an eight-month-old baby to perform oral sex on him.

"I will see to it that he would be in Muntinlupa even if he is a foreigner," a fuming Domingo said last week after the suspect was presented to the media. "I will drag him from the BI jail in Bicutan."

Domingo said she saw on video taken by a hidden camera how Matsushita molested the little niece of his Filipino live-in partner in the bedroom of their Parañaque home. "I did not finish

the tape because I could no longer bear it," said Domingo.

She said Matsushita's act constituted rape since the new rape law, Republic Act No. 8353, widens the definition of rape to cover other sex acts such as the one he committed against the baby.

RA 8353 also imposes the maximum penalty of death when the rape victim is below seven years old.

Matsushita's live-in partner became suspicious and set up the hidden camera after she noted that her niece vomited and cried whenever she was left in the care of the Japanese.

Matsushita was arrested Tuesday afternoon by members of the BI special operations team at his residence in San Antonio Valley, Sucat, Parañaque. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

METROBRIEFS

Last drinks for 2 videoke bar customers

TWO men were stabbed dead in Quezon City before dawn yesterday, one just after he and a friend had left a videoke bar, and the other right inside a similar bar. Suspected drug addicts killed Nollas Resurreccion, 25, and critically injured his friend Allan Sia while the two men were walking home after drinking in a bar just before dawn yesterday, said SPO1 Demosthenes Rebancos of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. The two men had been drinking with their coworkers at the Nichols Videoke Bar Saturday. At 12:05 a.m., Resurreccion and Sia left the bar. That was the last time they were seen alive. Resurreccion was stabbed in the right side of the body while Sia was hit in different parts of the body along Boni Serrano Avenue. Vegetable vendor Edilberto C. Sarte, 46, was alone when he went drinking in a videoke bar in the Riverview Market in Barangay Unang Sigaw, Balintawak. Around 5 a.m., an unidentified man joined him at his table and then stabbed him twice in the left chest, said SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. *Philip C. Tubeza*

2 men and a rob plan

WESTERN Police District members on Saturday arrested Primo Canas, 25, and Rogelio Morpe who they said were carrying a grenade and a gun, and were planning to rob a drug store in Caloocan City. SPO4 Jerry Morales said the two men, when searched, yielded a vicinity map of the Mercury Drug Store on Macario Asistio Sr. (formerly 10th Avenue) corner A. Mabini in Caloocan, as well as a grenade and a .38 caliber pistol. They were waiting for a cab at the corner of Claro M. Recto Avenue and Oroquieta Street in Sta. Cruz at dawn on Saturday when PO3 Dennis Cayabyab and Police Officers 1 Edgar Perez, Roland Clarin, Angelo Buzon and Dennis Adan appeared, SPO4 Morales said. The two men tried to run when the Station 3 patrolmen approached them. One of the two allegedly pulled out a pistol when he was surrounded and disarmed. Morpe and Canas were charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives before the city prosecutor's office. *Jerome Aning*

Another cell phone owner loses life

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

HOLDUP men stabbed University of Santo Tomas student Rudyano Francis A. Romero, 17, in Cubao, Quezon City even after he surrendered his mobile phone to them.

The two men held up Romero, of Greenland Village, Marikina City, in an FX taxi he was riding Saturday night, said PO3 Leo Tabuena of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. He died from a single stab wound in the chest.

PO3 Tabuena said Romero was sitting in the back of the taxi when it got stuck in heavy traffic. At 9:10 p.m., two men approached the taxi, opened its rear door and announced the holdup. One of them pulled out a knife and pointed it at Romero, witnesses

said. "He gave up his 3310 peacefully," Tabuena said.

But without any warning, the man with the knife lunged at Romero, who was hit in the chest, Tabuena said.

The suspects then disappeared in the maze of vehicles.

Jobless man admits role in girl's rape-slay

BY AGNES DONATO AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

ONE of the seven suspects in the Friday night rape-slay of a 10-year-old girl in Marikina City has admitted to the crime, police said yesterday.

Melvin Arazola, 25, jobless, of Marikina Heights, Marikina City, also implicated his friend and neighbor Ferdinand Miranda, 24, in the rape and killing of Ma. Cristina Suyu.

The girl's body was found inside a black garbage bag dumped in a ditch Saturday morning. She had been stabbed at least 14 times.

The Marikina police chief, Supt. Leo Kison, said Arazola admitted to the killing while being interrogated by the Marikina police criminal investigation chief, Inspector Ricardo Sto. Domingo, and SPO2 Arnel Manuel.

Arazola, who earlier denied the charges, reportedly told police he was under the influence of alcohol when he committed the rape.

He and Miranda were reportedly drinking in the house of his uncle Cesar Arazola when he saw the girl passing by about 6 p.m. Friday. He called the girl, saying he had something to give her.

When the girl came, Arazola grabbed her and covered her mouth with his hand, police said. Arazola dragged the girl to the kitchen and tied her up with a nylon cord.

Two hours later, Arazola's uncle and his two cousins, Rizaldy and Noel, arrived and noticed the suspect's apparent uneasiness. The three men later found the tied-up girl on the kitchen floor and confronted Arazola.

He told them that he and his

friends were planning to do something to the girl, police said. Despite this, however, the uncle and his three companions reportedly left minutes later as if there was nothing wrong.

Arazola alleged that Miranda was the first to rape the girl at knifepoint while Arazola held down her hands. But he also confessed that he was the first to stab the girl. He was responsible for the two stab wounds while Miranda did the rest, police said.

Police had arrested Cesar Arazola and his two cousins for keeping their silence despite their knowledge of the suspects' plan. Also detained were Claro Arazola, who reportedly arrived at the house earlier that night, and Allan Espiga, Melvin's drinking buddy.

The girl was a pupil at the Infant Jesus Academy and a resident of Narra Street in Marikina Heights. She

was last seen near a *sari-sari* store in the neighborhood around 6 p.m. Friday.

Marikina Heights residents found the garbage bag containing her body around 6:30 a.m. Saturday, according to the initial report by officer Manuel. The girl's bloodied clothes were found outside the gate of the suspects' house.

Police arrested the six men in the compound where the girl's clothes were found.

Chief Supt. George Alifio, director of the Eastern Police District, said there were bloodstains on the underwear of one of the suspects while another suspect also had scratches on his arms.

Police said they also found bloodstains in the master bedroom of the suspects' residence, Alifio said in a radio interview.

Old patrol jeep, siren . . . (From page A25)

corner of Que Grande and Darlucio streets in Barangay Ugong, according to a police report quoted by Philippine National Police spokesman Chief Supt. Cresencio Maralit.

The three vehicles, including the Revo, had no plate numbers, police said.

The men in the Revo remain unidentified, and no kidnapping has so far been reported.

But even if the three Bantay Bayan patrolmen failed to stop the apparent kidnapping, one of them Ismael Alberio said one of the suspects resembled Rolando German Cruz, whom he identified through pictures in the police rogues' gallery.

Insp. Salvador de la Cruz, chief of the station investigation branch of the Valenzuela police, said Cruz

was a member of the Danny Aguirre Group which is responsible for several kidnap-for-ransom cases in Bulacan.

The Bantay Bayan members were on patrol duty when they witnessed the alleged abduction. They said they were only a few meters away from the scene and even saw one of the armed men maul the Revo driver and shove the two others with the barrel of an M16 rifle.

In an attempt to foil the kidnapping, the patrolmen turned on their siren. But the armed men merely boarded the Revo with their victims and drove off, the patrolmen said.

On board their old patrol jeep, the patrolmen tailed the suspects' vehicles, which sped off toward Bagbaguin in Caloocan City. Several times, the patrolmen said they

almost caught up with the suspects.

But when the suspects realized that the patrolmen were unarmed, since no warning shots were fired despite the long car chase, the suspects stopped when they reached Caloocan City and alighted from their vehicles.

The patrolmen said the suspects went straight to them and pointed their M16 armalites at them. The suspects then ordered them to stop following or they would shoot their jeep.

The patrolmen said the suspects on board the Nissan Sentra car and the Revo sped toward Caloocan City. The suspects in the other car drove toward Quirino Highway.

The patrolmen went to the nearest police station to report the incident.

Last Monday, Connie Yap Wong, sister-in-law of Uratex owner Robert Cheng, and her police bodyguard PO1 Dionisio Burca Jr. were abducted in Quezon City and were later killed. Their bodies were found in Valenzuela.

Colorum ... (From page A25)

but this number pales when compared to the number of colorum buses in the same route. He said the impounded colorum buses, particularly those with spurious documents, would be auctioned off.

"We would treat these buses as tools in the commission of the offense," Abalos said.

He said he would recommend the revocation of the franchises of buses doing business out of their lines.

The MMDA campaign is being done in coordination with the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board, he said.

Abalos also said: "I have had enough of the complaints reaching my office about abusive and reckless drivers on Edsa."

Among the complaints he receives are speeding, obstruction, illegal swerving, sudden stops, lane cutting and smoke belching. *Nelson F. Flores*

Okay, who's next? Influenza is highly contagious. It can be spread by coughing, sneezing and handling contaminated objects. You'll experience symptoms like vomiting, fatigue, weakness, muscle ache, cough, colds, headache and fever. You can alleviate its symptoms and prevent further complications by drinking plenty of fluids, resting completely, and by taking medicine proven to be safe and effective against fever & flu.

PARACETAMOL
BIOGESIC
Fighting the Flu. Safely.

MESSAGES

I commend the leadership of Laguna Provincial Office for embarking on Project BlueLight and at the same time, extend my warmest felicitations on its launching on October 8, 2001.

I am elated that in its quest for efficient public service, the PNP-Laguna has initiated Project BlueLight designed to insure public safety and security to all commuters plying the major thoroughfares of the province.

Accidents are inevitable in highways, and untold stories of deaths and injuries occurred which could have been avoided, if only there are emergency crew ready to assist those in distress. Be that as it may, it is my hope that through this Project, we can minimize the occurrence of accidents on the road. I am confident this public service of PNP-Laguna will go a long way in serving our people, hence, it must be supported.

Kudos to PNP-Laguna! Mabuhay!

(SGD) JOSE D. LINA JR.
Secretary
Department of Interior and Local Government

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Provincial Government of Laguna for their desired effort in ensuring the safety of their community for the launching of Project BlueLight on October 8, 2001.

As Chief of the PNP, I firmly support this joint effort for the welfare of the people of Laguna. Project BlueLight is a welcome development not only for their community but a good sign of Moving Towards Peace in our country.

Province of Laguna & PNP, Congratulations!

(SGD) Director General LEANDRO MENDOZA
Chief
Philippine National Police

The launching of Project BlueLight is one of the programs of the Provincial Government of Laguna that concretizes its commitment to serve the general welfare of the people. This project aims to ensure the stable peace and order situation of our blessed province. In this way, we will continue to have a healthy economic and social climate that is vital for our continued development.

I would like to thank the Laguna Provincial Police Office and all the municipal governments for this joint undertaking. Our concerted efforts will definitely ensure the success of this project. I also take pride and honor in saying that this is the first of its kind in the whole country and may it serve as a model for others to follow.

I thank the Lord Almighty for his continued graces for our province and our people especially on those who have been tasked to maintain order in our community.

(SGD) TERESITA "NINGNING" LAZARO
Governor
Province of Laguna

I take pride and honor in congratulating the Provincial Government of Laguna and the Laguna Police Provincial Office for the launching of the Project BlueLight. This laudable effort only proves our continuing resolve to be of service to the community which we are sworn to protect.

The project, a police strategy conceived to prevent the occurrence of crimes in the industrial zones of the province, is an approach at attracting business investors in order to propel economic progress and development. With the big help and continued support extended by the local executives and the community, there's no way that the project will not succeed and attain its goals.

Again, my accolade to the Provincial Government of Laguna, Laguna PNP and the community.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

(SGD) Chief Superintendent DOMINGO A. REYES, JR.
Regional Director
Police Region Office IV

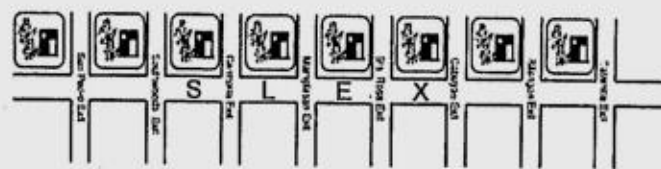
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Interior and Local Government
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
LAGUNA PROVINCIAL POLICE OFFICE

L A U N C H E S



Project BLUELIGHT

Sr. Superintendent Nilo dela Cruz implemented the Project BlueLight, an "outpost station" project. Each BlueLight outpost station is installed in various major thoroughfares, highways (South Superhighway, provincial roads, city roads, municipal roads, etc.) and subdivision blocks in the whole province of Laguna.

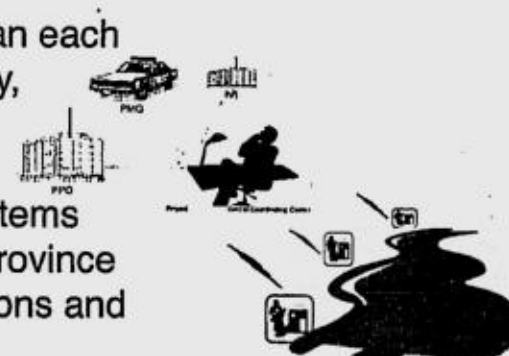


To further improve the peace and order situation on the roads of Laguna, there will be one BlueLight box every 2 kilometers interval (estimate of 200 Blue Light boxes) to rear away criminals and syndicates and to assist in other functions or accident response, both emergency and necessary tasks.



Two policemen will man each outpost 24 hours a day, complete with radio communications that include 3 repeater systems

in strategic locations throughout the province that will interlink all the BlueLight stations and PNP stations around Laguna.



The Project BlueLight is an initiative of **SR. SUPERINTENDENT NILO DELA CRUZ** (Police Provincial Director of Laguna), with the support of the Department of Interior & Local Government, Office of the Governor of Laguna, Philippine National Police and Laguna Provincial Police Office.

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MONDAY,
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B1

BUSINESS

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Ayala eyes Boni Global City project

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PROPERTY developer Metro Pacific Corp. is in talks for the possible sale of its entire stake in its flagship 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City to Ayala Land Inc.

INQUIRER sources said that the Ayala group, MPC's stiffest rival when the state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority bid out the development rights to the property, was keen on buying out MPC's controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Corp.

If consummated, a deal with MPC would give the Ayala group a second chance to take over the premier property after losing out to the

MPC-led consortium in 1995.

MPC controls 69.6 percent of BLC, which has a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture company formed with the BCDA to develop the former Fort Bonifacio military base.

Last month, ALI was the lone bidder when BLC auctioned the development rights to an 18.9-hectare portion of the Global City located in the northern central business district. ALI's offer of P11,800 per square meter was rejected because it was a substantial discount to MPC's original acquisition cost of P33,000 per square meter for the property.

The sources said ALI, however, was willing to improve its offer if it

covered the entire stake in the 150-hectare development, which was a strategic fit to its own Makati central business district.

One source noted that preliminary discussions were leading to a price quote of more than P20,000 per square meter. The source said that among the local property groups, ALI had the best financial capability to take over the vast property and continue its development as a premier city.

The source added that Fort Bonifacio would enhance ALI's portfolio as the group was running out of landbanking within the greater Metro Manila area, with the nearest assets already far south in Laguna.

But other sources said that aside from ALI, MPC was also trying to drum up interest from other groups.

MPC admitted last week that it would consider selling its controlling stake in BLC to pare down at least P10.5 billion in debt. (See story on Business Monday, page C1.)

An official from the Ayala group said: "We're always open to opportunities but we're not forcing the issue on Fort Bonifacio."

The official said Fort Bonifacio was attractive because of its strategic location but ALI "could live without it." However, if a good deal comes along, the official pointed out that the Ayala group would always consider.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.565 = \$1

As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 05, 2001

Y 120.52 = \$1

As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 05, 2001

GOLD: \$291.75/292.50

per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 05, 2001

STOCK MARKET

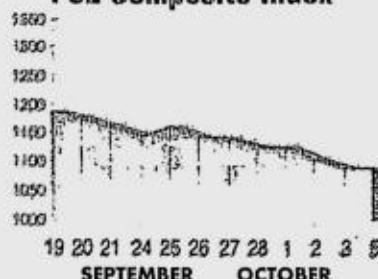
Slow trade seen

AFTER hitting historic lows, the market is seen to consolidate this week as investors are in a dilemma on whether or not to pick up local stocks which have fallen to dirt-cheap levels.

Despite the market's oversold levels, analysts said it remained to be seen whether a bottom has been reached. They said lock stocks would likely move sideways with a bearish bias.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed another 3.4 percent last week to close at 1,088.44 on Friday, shrugging off the impact of fresh cuts in interest rates here and in the United States. (Story on page B6.)

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Forex reserves rose to \$14.5B in September

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

MORE than \$300 million in short-term loans secured by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last month pushed the country's level of dollar reserves to \$14.5 billion in end-September from \$14.21 billion a month ago.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the gross international reserves rose after the central bank received the proceeds of "more than \$300 million in short-

term borrowings" last month.

He said the BSP also revalued its gold assets after the price of precious metal went up after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

"Higher gold prices, new loans, a mismatch with maturing loans... have pushed up the GIR to \$14.5 billion," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Comprised mostly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank including gold and special drawing rights,

the currency used by International Monetary Fund.

Tetangco declined to say why the central bank resorted to a short-term borrowing when it had no maturing obligations until next year. He said the level of the gross reserves could finance more than four months' worth of imports of goods and services.

The level of reserves had been declining since the start of the year from about \$15 billion in end-2000. BSP officials even feared that the

GIR might decline to the mid-\$13 billion level if export receipts continued to go down.

The last time the reserves stood at about \$14.5 billion was in April when the central bank also received more than \$700 million in loans that it used to refinance its maturing obligations.

Bank analysts said that despite an increasing deficit in the balance of payments, a situation that usually depletes the reserves, the GIR was

FOREX/B3

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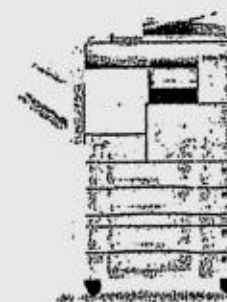
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IPO underwriters of former RFM unit face suits in US

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE UNDERWRITERS of semiconductor firm PSI Technologies Holdings Inc., the first Philippine company to debut on technology-heavy Nasdaq, are facing class actions for alleged anomalies during the initial public offering held in March last year.

Based on complaints separately filed in New York by the law firms of Schiffrin & Barroway and Cauley Geller Bowman &

Coates, PSI shareholders charged IPO underwriters FleetBoston Robertson Stephens Inc. and Bear Stearns & Co. Inc. with violations of the Securities Exchange Act, specifically on disclosures on commission and allocation of the shares.

RFM Corp., the majority owner of PSI when the IPO was conducted in March last year, was not named as among the defendants in the case. To date, RFM has already divested its remaining stake in PSI to a unit

of Merrill Lynch.

The complaints alleged that the prospectus given to investors in connection with the IPO was materially false and misleading because it failed to disclose, among other things, that:

- the underwriters had solicited and received excessive and undisclosed commissions from certain investors in exchange for which defendants allocated to those investors IPO/ B3

Gov't eyes \$170-M Singapore borrowing

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is evaluating proposals from three foreign investment banks for a five-year S\$300 million (roughly US\$170 million) in sovereign borrowing within the year.

The Singapore borrowing would be a first for the country if it pushes through and the second instance of diversification this year into economies suffering from a marked slowdown. The first would be the \$500-million bond issue in Japan slated for November.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that the proposed borrowing was consistent with the country's plan to diversify its sources of external financing.

INQUIRER sources said the offers to handle the borrowing came from Swiss-based UBS Warburg, Citibank N.A., and ING Barings. The pricing offer was also favorable at a rate not higher than 3.5 percentage points over the London interbank offered rate.

Though more expensive than the \$220-million peso-to-dollar swap handled by HSBC last August that was priced at 1.9 percentage points over Libor, the proposed Singapore borrowing was still lower than the going spread of 4.25 percentage points in August when the market was even less volatile.

Camacho said the pricing offers were favorable to the government even if the Singapore economy was suffering from two successive quarters of negative growth or a technical recession.

"Recession is not related to the liquidity of the market. Even if the Japanese and Singapore

economies are undergoing restructuring, their markets remain liquid, that's why interest rates remain low," he said.

The finance secretary stressed that Singapore investors have a neutral to stable sentiment toward the Philippines. It helped, he said, that President Macapagal had a state visit to Singapore last August.

Camacho noted that the proceeds of the borrowing would be used to finance next year's requirements. If approved, the Singapore borrowing would bring to at least \$1.02 billion the 2002 external funding to be completed this year.

The government said it only needed about \$1.3 billion in foreign funding for next year to finance an estimated P130-billion budget deficit.

So far, the government has completed the processing of a \$350-million facility for its next year's requirements. The \$350 million would come from the \$250-million bond issue from Credit Suisse First Boston and a \$100-million dollar-denominated treasury bill offering of Citibank N.A.

In the pipeline is a \$500 million to \$800 million borrowing from the yen bond market set for November.

Of the P111 billion in total financial requirement for next year, the government would also use 46 percent of its official development assistance to minimize its commercial borrowings.

The national treasury said that the government has so far raised \$520 million from foreign sources this year and the amount was sufficient to help finance the P145-billion budget deficit this year.

MRT firm bucks proposal to bid extension project

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

EDSA MRT-3 contractor Metro Rail Transit Corp. said it was ready to undertake the MRT-3 extension project that Transportation officials earlier said could still be auctioned off.

MRTC spokesperson Paul Daza said in a statement last week that the consortium's original build-lease-transfer agreement with the government guaranteed that it would be the one to implement the 5.1-kilometer extension project.

"DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications)'s plan to auction off the extension project is ill-advised because the original BLT agreement grants MRTC legal rights to carry out the extension of the line," he said.

He added that the MRTC was "prepared to seek judicial remedies to protect those rights" if the transportation department decides to push through with a bidding.

But Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad said in an earlier interview that it was no longer in the DOTC's hands to decide the fate of the contractor as it was the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee which would have the final decision. If the committee finds MRTC's proposal satisfactory, then there would be no more bidding.

Daza reasoned, however, that the MRTC's technical proposal, which included the engineering procurement contract, light rail vehicles and project cost, was already approved by the Neda-

ICC as early as January. He said the only item left for evaluation and approval was the contractor's financial proposal.

MRTC submitted to the DOTC almost three weeks ago its revised technical and financial proposal for the MRT-3 extension project. A series of negotiations were also held with DOTC officials to iron out the details of the draft agreement that would be submitted to the Neda-ICC for approval.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez gave the MRTC and Trinidad's railways group up to Oct. 15 to hammer out its draft agreement. The Neda-ICC, on the other hand, would have until next month to decide whether or not to give the extension deal to the MRTC.

Daza, for his part, stressed the importance of completing the extension project as soon as possible as this would benefit millions of commuters daily.

For any delay in implementing the extension of the project, Daza blamed the "numerous changes (that had to be done) to the original BLT agreement and the ongoing negotiations with the DOTC."

The MRTC reaffirmed its commitment to complete construction of the 5.1-kilometer extension within two years from financial closure. Target date for operations is June 2004.

The \$330-million MRT-3 extension project would extend the railway from North Avenue to Monumento and would link the railway to the Light Rail Transit line 1.

Nissan labor row seen to discourage Taiwan investors

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE TEMPORARY closure of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc.'s Laguna factory due to a labor dispute is widely expected to further discourage the ebbing Taiwanese investments in the country.

An INQUIRER source said Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II's counterpart in Taiwan was the former chair of Yulon Motor Co. Ltd. who initiated the takeover of Taiwan's biggest auto assembler and parts maker into NMPI in 1999. Yulon, which is 25-percent owned by Nissan Motor Co. of Japan, has committed to invest P8 billion to expand its Laguna plant in the country.

Yulon had chosen the Philippines over Thailand as its manufacturing hub for Nissan cars in the region because it has a better chance of recovery than Thailand.

The source said the labor dispute was a major setback to the Philippine government's ongoing efforts to attract Taiwanese investors whose confidence in the country has been badly shaken by the suspension of flights between the two countries due to a disagreement between Philippine Airlines and Taiwan airlines in 1999. Taiwan is among the country's biggest sources of investments, main trading partners, and employers of overseas Filipino workers.

The forced closure of NMPI's plant last week due to a strike by its union over differences on the collective bargaining agreement is expected to further drive away Taiwanese investors who have skipped the Philippines to go to Vietnam and Thailand for their overseas investments.

The NMPI shutdown, the second assembler to ground to a halt in the last seven months after Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. suspended operations due to a labor strike, is likely to add fuel to Japanese businessmen's concerns of the worsening labor situation in the country.

Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines president Shoichi Kameyama cited labor unrest, along with kidnapping and poor infrastructure, as one of the reasons why Japanese businessmen were moving to Vietnam, China and Thailand.

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Low bat

IF YOU want a simple explanation why market leader Ramcar is in a debt funk right now, think four words: cheap imports/high interest.

This, in short, is the thumbnail explanation of a sympathetic banker-creditor to the problems hounding the country's leading battery manufacturer.

The strange twist in the Ramcar saga is that, like appliance manufacturer Philacor, devaluation—instead of helping their manufactures obtain the theoretical competitive boost, as what Monsod/Diokno/Diliman academics had so noisily lobbied and predicted—actually did them both in.

Like Philacor, Ramcar was in an

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



ambitious expansion mode funded by borrowed money when the Asian crisis hit in 1997. Interest rate, power, and labor costs shot up as demand shrunk.

Weakened by the hostile financial environment, cheap/smuggled/dumped imports flooded in as tariff liberalization set in. It also did not help that

Ramcar also strayed out of its core competence, joining the MRT consortium for a possible real estate play.

(Ramcar patriarch Manolo Agustines is in the thick of debt-restructuring negotiations with the bank creditors, and declined to be inter-

viewed.)

Given that the original P2-billion liability had ballooned to P8 billion, would the other Agustines ventures like KFC and Mr. Donut now be sacrificed to recharge the drained battery empire?

Reforestation Ernest

GOURMET Café owner Ernest Escaler sang and danced his way in public Thursday night, apparently unperturbed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson's revelations linking the impresario's

Hong Kong bank account as conduit to certain unexplained fund transfers.

His pony-tail replaced by a shiny pate, Escaler went on stage with ABS-CBN's Gina Lopez for the finale number of the Retro@Rockwell night, a

COCKTALES/B6

Forex ...

(From page B1)

preserved after the peso had stabilized at the 51-to-a-dollar level last month.

"There was no need for the BSP to intervene and aggressively sell dollars to the market last month unlike in previous months when the peso was sharply weakening," explained an analyst from a local bank.

The central bank stressed that its current GIR level was still more than twice the level of its short-term debt, contrary to earlier pronouncements made by several investment banks including Barclays Capital.

IPO ...

(From page B2)

vestors material portions of the restricted number of PSI shares issued in connection with the IPO, and

• underwriters had entered into agreements with customers whereby defendants agreed to allocate PSI shares to those customers in the IPO in exchange for which the customers agreed to purchase additional PSI shares in the aftermarket at predetermined prices.

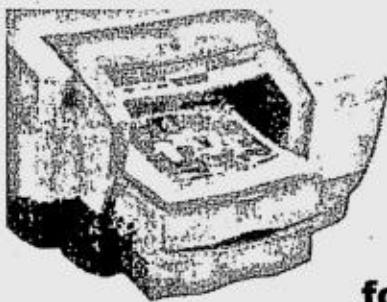
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Abenina's insurance monopoly

LAST Tuesday, I attended a meeting at the Insurance Commission. The meeting was arranged at the request of Edgardo Abenina, top gun at the Land Transportation Office, who wanted his boys to present details of an intricate computerized plan to wipe out graft and corruption in the compulsory third party liability insurance business.

As every owner knows, when you register your vehicle, you file a digest of a Compulsory Third Party Liability insurance policy. This digest is called Certificate of Cover (COC).

Abenina has virtually accused the insurance industry of massive graft and corruption in the conduct of COC business. He said in the meeting that everyday people complain to him of unpaid insurance claims. Early this year, an article in one of the lesser-known magazines, which shall remain nameless here, claimed that based on official figures of the Insurance Commission, out of 3.7 million registered vehicles, 2.81 million, or more than 75 percent, were covered by fake COCs. This translates to about P1.8 billion in unreported premiums and over P400 million in lost taxes.

Abenina wants to solve the problem himself. He practically twisted the arms of the president of Isap, the insurance companies association, to sign a memorandum of agreement, the terms of which were never previously discussed or agreed upon. It was not a memorandum of agreement. It was an instrument of surrender.

The instrument of surrender authorized a newly formed computer services company called DTech Management to set up and run a consortium of all insurance companies. Policy issuance, premium collection and claim payments will be done entirely by computer, thereby supposedly avoiding graft and corruption.

What everything boils down to is that DTech will be operating a strict monopoly. No policy will be registered with the LTO without passing through the DTech network. The agents and brokers, who are supposed to be the villains in this entire affair, are up in arms because they will be shut out. They will lose P230 million in commissions. In the meeting, DTech said that the plan has been revised to accommodate the agents and brokers, thank you very much. But DTech will still get a commission on every policy sold by brokers and agents, and that makes DTech a monopoly just the same.

At the current COC premium volume industry-wide of P2.3 billion a year, Abenina's insurance monopoly, at 40-percent commission, will rake in as much as P920 million a year. This will make DTech one of the largest insurance operations in the country.

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

In terms of gross income, it will be bigger than any non-life insurance company, except the five biggest. Not bad for a new company with an initial paid-up capital of P2 million.

In the meeting, Abenina announced that he wanted everybody on-line with him so he could deal with anybody who goes out of line. That was a strange thing to hear. My colleagues in the brokers' association and my friends in the agents' association never felt the need to contact the LTO on any claim over the past 25 years of doing COC business. And none of their clients is complaining.

Is the problem of graft and corruption really so bad? Far from it. The Insurance Commission's Report for 1999 shows that only 12 percent, not 75 percent, of registered vehicles are covered by COCs not reported to the Commission. This means about P276 million in premiums and P63 million in taxes. Still a troubling figure but far smaller than Abenina's figures. Not all the 12 percent are fake. This is COC business done on the sly. In most cases, claims are paid, no matter what Abenina says.

Abenina's problem is that his LTO employees sell COCs on the side. The 88 percent are real, authentic policies serviced by agents and brokers who report to the companies, which in turn report to the Commission. In trying to solve the problem in the 12 percent area, Abenina wants to make a mess of the legitimate 88-percent area.

Abenina's accusation that over 75 percent of the COC business are fake is not true. So, what the hell is going on? Is there a secret agenda? There is talk that Abenina's monopoly is a fund-raising venture of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM).

I am prepared to grant that Abenina is misinformed. In which case, I suggest that he had better clean up his front yard first—every jeepney, taxi or bus operator calls LTO one of the dirtiest agencies—before wanting to become the uncrowned czar over a business he knows little about and that may blow up in his face.

RP to support Apec position on WTO talks

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE MACAPAGAL administration will first gauge the sentiment of Apec leaders on the proposed new round of talks for global trade liberalization before making its final position in the upcoming World Trade Organization ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar, next month.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said that while the government has been vocal on its stand that the WTO should first untangle the lingering issues in the previous agreement before undertaking a new round, it has kept its options open especially if the majority of Apec's members would move to support a new round of talks.

"We must recognize that we cannot be isolated. The fact that Apec in Shanghai is happening this month before the WTO in Doha provides a good opportunity for us to gauge the leaders' appetite for a new round," Roxas said.

Developed countries are aggressively pushing to further hasten trade liberalization by opening a new round of discussions for the opening of more invest-

ment and service areas to free competition. Roxas said they wanted to take up competition policy, environment and labor concerns, and investment treatment concerns.

But developing countries, including the Philippines, are reluctant to open up new talks because they are still having a tough time implementing their commitments in the Uruguay round in 1994. Developing countries are also appealing for a relief mechanism that would ease their adjustment to globalization and free trade.

Roxas said President Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed the country's economic managers to conduct extensive consultations with various sectors and coordinate with legislators in crafting the country's position in the Doha meeting.

In the industry sector, Roxas said the Department of Trade and Industry has formed a WTO technical committee that would establish the parameters in determining the country's strengths, potential and weaknesses.

Roxas said the government would use sectors where the Philippines has been lagging behind as bargaining chips to get concessions from other countries.

Neda turns down P7-B BOT project of MWSS

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has rejected the proposed P7-billion Laguna Lake Bulk Water Supply build-operate-transfer project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Neda found the MWSS 300 million-liter-per-day project non-feasible as it was designed to tap Laguna Lake as source of water for household and business consumption.

"We foresee that environmental and local government problems will arise if we insist on having the Laguna Lake as the only water source for this project. We advised them (MWSS) to explore other possible water sources," Neda director for infrastructure Ruben Reinoso said.

Reinoso said it would be more expensive to treat the water coming from the Laguna Lake. This, he said, would translate to higher water rates. MWSS was told to find other sources of water that would not require an extensive and expensive treatment process.

The 300-MLD water project of the MWSS was intended to serve Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa

and parts of Cavite.

MWSS Administrator Jose F. Mabanta said in another interview that the agency would undertake further study on the project and revise the proposal to meet the Neda requirements.

MWSS projected that there would not be enough water supply to meet the expected water requirement of Metro Manila and neighboring provinces by 2004.

The agency has lined up a number of projects for implementation up to 2009. These include the Wawa River Water Supply Project, the Angat Utilization and Aqueduct Improvement and the Marikina North East Water Supply Project.

The Wawa River project aims to serve the areas of San Mateo, Manggahan and Rodriguez in Rizal. It includes the setting up of a treatment plant, reservoir site and treated water conveyance pipes. The entire project was estimated to cost P700 million.

The Angat Utilization and Aqueduct Improvement project was estimated to cost P2.9 billion. MWSS has yet to confirm the viability of this project. In case this project will not push through, MWSS will consider the Marikina North-East project as an alternative.

GOINGS-ON

Bicol fair at SM Megamall

LEGAZPI CITY—Bicol entrepreneurs will hold their fifth Orgullo Kan Bicol Regional Trade Fair at the Megatrade Hall 2, 5th Floor Building B of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City on Oct. 11-14 to generate investments and trade, and provide the much-needed boost for the region's socio-economic potentials.

About 96 manufacturers, producers, exporters and institutional participants from the Bicol Region will exhibit and sell their products and services during the fair.

Albay province has the biggest number of participants, with 29; Camarines Norte, 6; Camarines Sur, 18; Catanduanes and Sorsogon, both 11, and Masbate, 4.

The rest of the participants will come from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program beneficiaries. At least 13 government institutions will also join the yearly event. *Job Belen, PDI, Southern Luzon Bureau*

Citem's Industry Search 2001

THE CENTER for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, will hold on Oct. 10 to 12 the Industry Search 2001 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Industry Search 2001, a subcontracting fair for industrial goods and services, is a showcase of the abilities of contract manufacturers and subcontractors to match the outsourcing needs of the domestic market, exporters, and multinational corporations.

UCPB gift checks

IN TIME for the coming holidays, UCPB is launching the UCPB Gift Check in November. The new product is the most flexible gift one can give to their loved ones. Recipients can encash the checks to buy any gift they want, or they can save and deposit them in the bank.

The gift check is available to account holders of the bank's 178 branches. The specially-designed check comes in a red envelope that symbolizes prosperity in the Oriental tradition. The minimum amount that can be drawn per check is P100 and the maximum amount is P50,000. Clients can pay for their gift check purchases through cash, debit account, or duly-funded "in-house"/"on-us" checks. The recipient or payee should always be identified and indicated on the gift check for security reasons.

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Cosmos sales up 34%

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

COSMOS Bottling Corp., the soft drink unit of RFM Corp. that will be sold to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., reported a 34-percent growth in sales in the third quarter of the year.

Cosmos chair and CEO Jose Concepcion III announced that the company's net sales hit a record-high of P5.6 billion in the third quarter compared with P4.2 billion in the same period last year.

Concepcion reported that Cosmos' sales volume had expanded by 21 percent during the period despite the sluggish market for soft drinks industry brought about by weaker consumer spending and rainy months during the period.

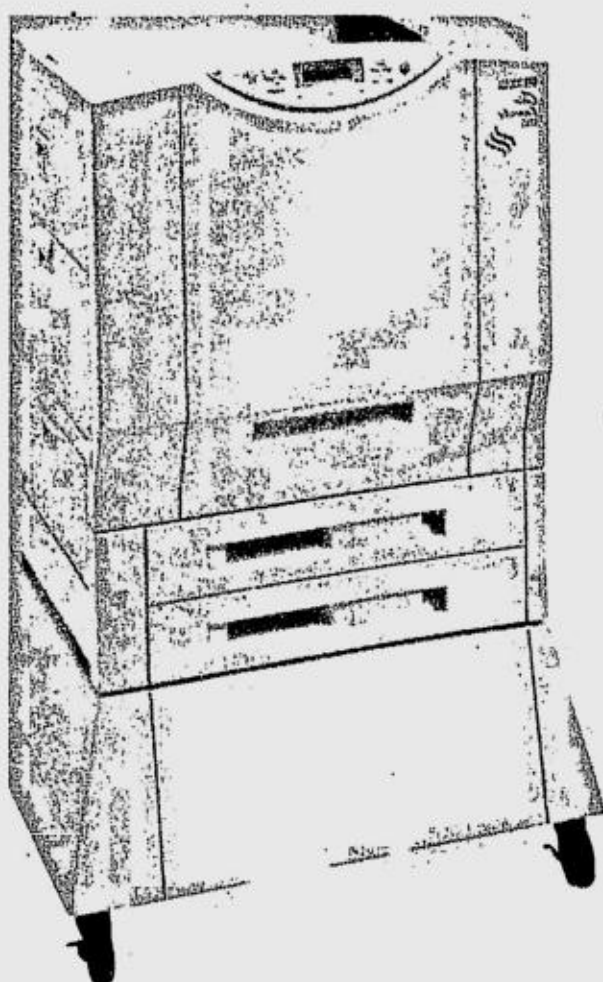
He said this performance made Cosmos the second biggest soft drink company in the country, next to Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

Concepcion attributed the robust growth to the successful series of brand-building campaigns for Pop Cola.

"We definitely hit the right marketing campaign and brand positioning by harping on the message 'Tama ang Timpla' (Right mixture). This brought the Pop Cola brand closer to the hearts of many Filipinos," Concepcion said.

He said the company was likewise able to market Sarsi Rootbeer as a good alternative to cola drinks.

"Our investments on these brands are paying off as they tremendously helped in bringing in sales. Our recent commercials, which showed new and young talents, likewise helped a lot in projecting a more vibrant and dynamic image to both Cosmos brands that Filipinos can relate to," Concepcion said.



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Case vs BSP execs junked

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has dismissed a case filed by former Quezon City Rep. Michael Defensor accusing top central bank officials of breaking the country's banking laws to force the closure of Urban Bank Inc. in April last year.

In a 12-page decision approved by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, graft investigation officer Rogelio Ringpis said Defensor "was not the right person" to file a complaint accusing former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo and other members of the policy-making Monetary Board, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes and 12 other central bank officials of closing Urban Bank and its thrift and investment units illegally, with undue haste and under "suspi-

cious" circumstances.

The complaint was filed on Jan. 23 this year.

The Office of the Ombudsman concluded that there was no reason to proceed with a criminal case against Pardo, Buenaventura, Reyes and the others accused because Defensor, apart from "lacking legal personality," also lodged a complaint that was "premature" and "inadequate."

Defensor was not a stockholder, depositor or investor of Urban Bank and its thrift and investment units, Urbancorp Development Bank and Urbancorp Investments Inc. He was, according to the Office of the Ombudsman, "not in a position to consider himself injured or damaged as a result of the closed institutions."

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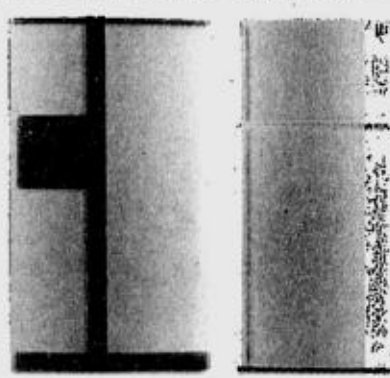
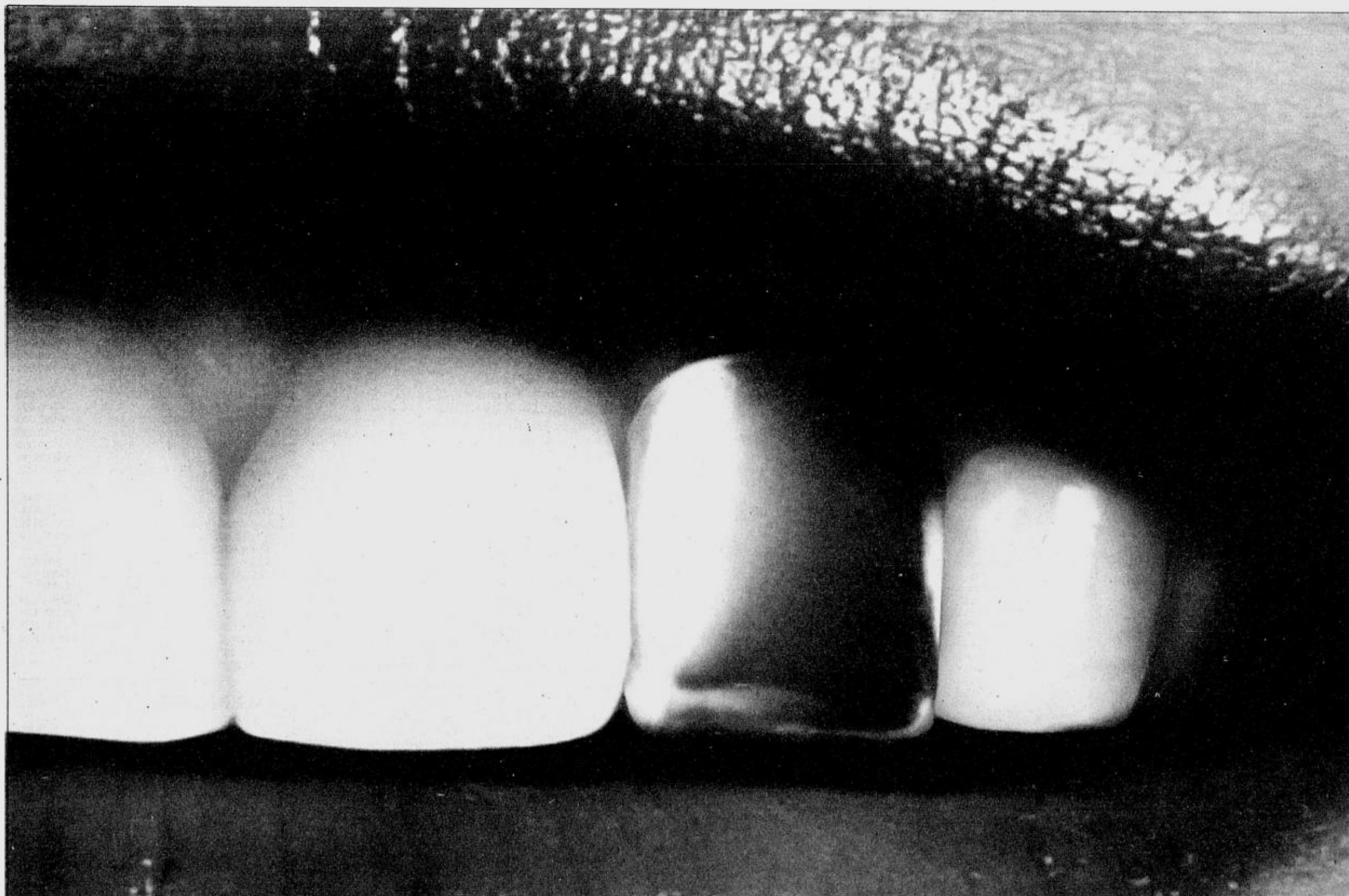
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Valot Parking Available

Still, despite the initial, overwhelming success, the Guevarras have lately been grumbling over alleged delays and specifications about the joint venture.

Hmmm. Sounds like another Leonila Garcia experience again. (*Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@cocktales_pdi.com*)

STOCKS	As of Friday, October 5, 2001			CLOSE	VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW		
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	49.5	101,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	23	23	22.75	22.75	63,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	191	193	189	190	89,310
Philippine National Bank	49.5	50	49	50	599,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1355	1350	1355	760
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1015	1025	1005	1025	101,900
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27	27	27	27	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	6,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	630	620	620	14,110
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,500,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	410	415	407.5	410	121,170
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	35,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33	32.5	32.5	82,000
Petron Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.22	776,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.26	1.3	1.24	1.28	913,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.41	150,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	90,000
William, Gothong & Aboltiz	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	80,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	40,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	4,002,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.1	21,280,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	185,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	60,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.5	25	24.5	25	18,500
RFM Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.08	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39.5	38.5	39.5	94,000
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51.5	51	51.5	35,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	6,512,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	473,000
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.38	73,000
Alco.Net Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	140,000
Ajcom Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	47,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	176,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	90,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	7.1	9.9	7.1	9.9	3,700
Brenpes Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	11,733,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	100,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.75	24.5	23.75	24.25	29,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	90,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	212,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.58	5,220,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.225	6,720,000
Musico Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.5	0.5	280,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	140,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	3,200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	2,250,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	25	27	25	26.5	462,500
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	590	600	590	595	2,430
Jollibee Warrants	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	6,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	8,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9.6	8.5	9.6	14,630,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.05	4.05	4	4.05	3,424,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	3,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.205	0.22	1,340,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	7,350,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	8,617,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	3,473,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	320,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	21,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	1,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	5,200,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	4,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
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Comm'l & Ind'l	188,559,110	325,379,125.00
PRO	25,227,000	56,129,610.00
Mining	28,280,000	764,800.00
OIL	9,040,000	34,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	250,052,180	535,280,105.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	445.48	DOWN 2.97
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,540.30	DOWN 3.92
PRO	424.63	DOWN 9.32
Mining	1,084.85	DOWN 1.99
OIL	1.28	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	875.54	DOWN 0.38
Composite	1,088.44	DOWN 6.49
NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 39; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 33;		
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 92; NO. OF TRADES: 1,548		

CURRENCIES

Oct. 5, 2001				
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.089087	1.00000	51.5870
Japan	Yen	0.009048	0.008308	0.4286
United Kingdom	Pound	1.608800	1.477200	76.2043
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139806	0.128370	6.6222
Switzerland	Franc	0.672650	0.617627	31.8615
Canada	Dollar	0.694262	0.637471	32.8852
Singapore	Dollar	0.612466	0.562366	29.0108
Australia	Dollar	0.541834	0.497512	25.6652
Bahrain	Dinar	2.888980	2.652661	136.8428
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.290424	0.266667	13.7566
Brunei	Dollar	0.610817	0.560852	28.9327
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000103	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024391	0.022396	1.1553
UAE	Dirham	0.296592	0.272331	14.0487
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.000787	0.0396
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.918200	47.3672
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.469468	24.2184
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139979	7.2211
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.416661	21.4943
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066728	3.4423
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022762	1.1742
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000474	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154430	7.9666
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004658	0.2363
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005518	0.2847
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.022762	1.1742

US September job losses worst in a decade

WASHINGTON—The US economy suffered its steepest job loss in a decade in September, the government said Friday in a report that showed the labor market was deteriorating sharply even before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The number of workers on payrolls outside the farm sector sank 199,000 in September. However, this figure largely did not reflect the economic impact of the Sept. 11 airplane strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Even with the fall in payrolls, the US unemployment rate managed to stay steady at 4.9 percent.

"It's very clear that we're in recession," said Kurt Karl, chief economist at Swiss Re in New York. "The (pay-

roll) employment numbers imply that a 6-percent unemployment rate is on the horizon although it may be three to four months away."

September's was the biggest drop in jobs since a 259,000 jobs decline in February 1991, in the depths of the last recession, and marked the fourth fall in the last six months. Employers have cut half a million jobs since March.

As has been the case for more than a year, job cuts were especially hefty in the ailing manufacturing sector.

Economists widely believe the attacks in New York and Washington plunged the economy into recession—if it wasn't already in one. The attacks have badly shaken Americans' confidence in the economic outlook, an omi-

nous sign for consumer spending, which fuels two-thirds of gross domestic product growth.

The airline sector, where tens of thousands of layoffs have been announced, has been among the hardest-hit sectors so far. Other tourism-related industries, like hotels, are also suffering.

Some of the polling for the latest jobs report took place after Sept. 11. But based on the methodology of the survey, many people who lost jobs immediately after the attacks would still have been counted as being on the payrolls if they worked at least one day during the Sept. 12 reference week.

"It is likely that the events of Sept. 11 had little effect on the September employment and unemployment fig-

ures," Katharine Abraham, commissioner of the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said in a statement. "Job loss related directly or indirectly the events of Sept. 11 should begin to be reflected in the October data."

The October report is due in early November.

US economists in a Reuters survey had expected the September job loss to total only 109,000 and the unemployment rate to rise to 5 percent.

Job losses totaled 84,000 in August, Labor said, a revision from the originally reported 113,000 decline. The economy had eked out a gain of 18,000 jobs in July.

"It confirms what we already

know—that the economy was in dismal shape before Sept. 11 and is in significantly worse shape thereafter," said Ward McCarthy, managing director of Stone and McCarthy Research Associates in Princeton, N.J.

A breakdown of the September report showed job losses were widespread in the economy. Manufacturing industries cut 93,000 workers from their payrolls while the broad category of service-producing industries shed 102,000 jobs.

Retail jobs fell 44,000 and construction payrolls declined 4,000. Finance, insurance and real estate jobs rose 14,000, one of the very few categories where businesses actually showed a net gain.

Attempting to ward off the blow to the economy from the attacks, the Federal Reserve has cut interest rates twice in the aftermath of Sept. 11, with the second round of cuts on Tuesday when the central bank lowered overnight borrowing costs by a half percentage point to the lowest level since 1962. President George W. Bush and Congress are negotiating a stimulus package of up to \$75 billion, likely to include tax cuts and extensions of jobless benefits, to help cushion the impact.

Some analysts were wary of reading too much into the latest payrolls data as the attacks in Washington and New York are sure to have ripple effects for months to come. *Reuters*

Warnings continue to soar after attacks

NEW YORK—The number of US companies warning about financial results continued to soar this week, most citing the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center and its economic after-effects.

Among the big names in the technology industries warning this week due to the events of Sept. 11 were computer makers Sun Microsystems Inc. and Gateway Inc.

Compaq Computer Corp. warned that due to a combination of its merger plans and the attack-weakened economy, it would report an operating loss in the third quarter.

Hotel owners and operators have also been among those claiming to have been hurt since Sept. 11. Marriott International Inc. and

MGM Mirage both lowered guidance this week.

Several high-profile real estate companies lowered guidance this week.

Equity Office Properties Trust, the largest publicly held US office building owner, cut profit estimates for 2002 on Thursday.

Other large companies with attack-related warnings this week include Ford Motor Co. and luxury retailer Neiman Marcus Group Inc.

Some of the highest-profile companies warning this week attributed their financial woes to other factors.

Drug maker Eli Lilly cut its fourth-quarter profit expectations on Wednesday, mostly due to slumping sales of antidepressant Prozac, which lost patent protection in late August. *Reuters*

Fears compound US economic woes

NEW YORK—Before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, a Utah company that sells bomb shelters was making about one sale a month. Now it's one a day, sometimes more.

Utah Shelter Systems' underground bunkers cost between \$16,000 and \$35,000 and are built to withstand earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes, as well as nuclear blasts, radiation and chemical or biological warfare.

"Three weeks ago, anyone who did shelters was a right-wing radical nut," said Sharon Packer, the company's vice president. "Now it's mainstream—90 percent of my customers are doctors and attorneys. They are concerned about terrorist attacks and full-scale nuclear war," she said.

"I don't think the world will ever be the same."

Nearly 5,600 people are feared dead

in last month's attacks by hijackers who crashed planes into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Washington blames Saudi-born Osama bin Laden for masterminding the attacks and is preparing to wage war against those thought to be responsible.

A surge in demand for bomb shelters, gas masks, guns and books on biological warfare is one example of how American consumers, beset with new fears about personal safety, war and job security, are changing spending patterns.

The attacks have spawned a whole new set of anxieties for Americans—from crop dusters spraying toxic chemicals over a population center or a drinking reservoir to fast-evaporating wealth in household stock portfolios and mounting job cuts.

Best-selling books in the past few

weeks include titles like "bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America" and the "First Responder Chem-Bio Handbook" on how to diagnose and treat contamination from biological or chemical agents.

Fearing more attacks, Americans are staying closer to home, cutting back on non-essential purchases and travel and delaying large purchases such as homes and cars, retail analysts say. The effects are rippling through the economy.

To heal the nation's wounded confidence, traditional monetary and fiscal remedies such as interest rate cuts, tax cuts or increased government spending will probably not be enough, economists and policymakers admit.

Making Americans feel safe again on the ground and in the air will be

critical in bringing about economic recovery.

In this environment of fear, some are wondering whether the Federal Reserve's traditional tools for prodding the economy have been rendered less potent. Others fear the Fed might be running out of ammunition to fight a recession.

Central bankers have already slashed rates nine times this year by a total of four percentage points, and the benchmark federal funds rate on overnight lending at 2.5 percent is at its lowest level in about four decades.

Lower interest rates will cushion the burden for the heavily indebted. "Frankly, I'm not even certain there is any need for the Fed to do anything more," said Mike Niemira, a senior economist at Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi. *Reuters*



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS:			TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS:		
DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 5	DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 5	DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 2/3
October 18, 2001		October 18, 2001		October 18, 2001	
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Developments in Philippine Aquaculture/Recent Advances in Shrimp Farming Systems by: SEAFDEC-AQD	10:15 am - 12:15 pm	Feed and Food Safety of Biotech Products by: Monsanto Philippines, Inc.	3:15 - 5:15 pm	Current Status and Future of Swine Reproduction/Feed Ingredients for Swine Diets-Nutrition Values/Problems Associated with Ingredient Storage and Handling by: University of Illinois/USDA Department of Agriculture/USDA Swine Trade Mission
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Artificial Insemination in Practice by: Juida Farm Supply Corp.	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Flower Shop Management by: Flower Club Phils.	3:15 - 5:15 pm	Feeding the Reproductive Herd Under Tropical Conditions/Gen Management Factors Influencing Attainment of Puberty and Longevity by: University of Illinois/USDA Department of Agriculture/USDA Swine Trade Mission
October 19, 2001		October 19, 2001		October 19, 2001	
10:15 am - 12:15 pm	How to Make A Profitable by: Schippers Phils./The Infumco Group	3:15 - 5:15 pm	Value Added Products from Tilapia by: Technology and Livelihood Resource Center	10:15 am - 12:15 pm	Greater Market Access Through New Technologies: The Israel Experience by: The Embassy of Israel - Manila
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Management of Yield Type Broiler by: Hybro B.V.			1:00 - 3:00 pm	Diversified Species for Fresh Water Aquaculture by: Mercado Farms
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Recent Advances and Development in Swine Nutrition by: San Miguel Foods, Inc.			3:15 - 5:15 pm	Free Range Chicken Growing by: OPTA

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"Quality Assurance in Marketing of Fresh Horticultural Produce"

PROGRAMME

16 October 2001 (Tuesday)
Arrival of participants, check-in (hotel)

17 October 2001 (Wednesday)
0730-0900 Registration
0900-1000 Opening Ceremony: Enceps: Corason E. Asensio
Invocation: Nilda B. Flor
National Anthem: Gladys S. Orlina
Opening Remarks: Perilla A. Nueva, Director, PHIRC
Welcome Address: Wilfredo P. Davila, Chairperson, UPLB
Message: Hon. Manuel Villar, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture
Message: Hon. Alfredo G. Marañon, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture
Introduction of the keynote speaker: Antonio Y. Reyes, President, FRDL
Keynote address: Hon. Leonardo D. Montemayor, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Coffee Break

PLENARY SESSION (Chair: Dr. Otha K. Savitsky; Rapporteur: Elida B. Esquivel)
1015-1100 Microbiological Food Safety of Fresh Produce: Emerging Global Concerns and Economic Implications
Manuel M. Garcia, Chair, International & SEALED-SEALED, Food Safety Network, Canada
1100-1145 Postharvest Biotechnology: Issues and Impact
Robert E. Paul, University of Illinois
1145-1230 Agricultural Ethics and the Technological Imperative
Robert L. Zimdahl, Colorado State University
1230-1330 Lunch

ORAL SESSION 1 (Chair: Perilla A. Nueva; Rapporteur: Tito J. Miranda)
1330-1400 Creating Quality Cultures in the Fresh Produce Industry
S.C. Tengblad, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research
1400-1420 Developing a Quality Assurance System for Fresh Produce in Thailand
S.C. Tengblad, Thailand
1420-1440 Development of International Standards for Fresh Horticultural Produce
M.C.C. Llanza, PHIRC, UPLB, Philippines
1440-1500 Influence of Morphology and Stage of Ripeness on Rheological Properties and Postharvest Behavior of Tomato
E.P. Barrera, G.D. Naeffgen and K.E. Yaptenco, PHIRC-UPLB, Philippines
Coffee Break
1500-1515 Molecular Cloning of Ripening-related Genes in Papaya: ACC Synthase
A.C. Laureta, M.P. Hidalgo, P.M. Magaña, B.T. Perez, E.M.T. Mendoza, V.N. Villegas and J.H. Botilla, IRI, Philippines
1515-1535 Microprojectile Bombardment Transformation of 'Solo' Papaya Using ACC Synthase Antisense Construct
P.M. Magaña, A.C. Laureta, B.M. Perez, E.M.T. Mendoza, V.N. Villegas and J.H. Botilla, IRI, Phil.
1535-1600 POSTER SESSION
Reception

18 October 2001 (Thursday)

ORAL SESSION II (Chair: Sir. Sing Ching Tong; Rapporteur: Marilou V. Manzanar)

0830-0850 Improvement on the Systems of Fresh and Minimally Processed Pineapple from Small Producers
P.A. Nunez and L.A. Arce, PHIRC-UPLB, Philippines
0850-0910 A Case Study on Refrigerated Transport of Highland Vegetables from Benguet to Manila
K.S. Tapasco and E.P. Soriano, PHIRC-UPLB, Philippines
0910-0930 Growth, Germination, Sproutability and Postharvest Quality of Cactaceae species from Mangrove and Inland Forests
D. Nolasco, J.G. Alonzo, D. Tellez, E. Zavalita-Majia, H. Vagstad-Ruiz, T. Martinez-Damian and E. Delgado-Sanchez, Instituto de Fitosanidad, Mexico
0930-0950 Banana and Mango Fruit Response to Hot Water Dip and Subsequent Hyperthermal Chilling Treatment
A.L. Acosta, M.H. Benitez and M.C. Añel, VSCA, Philippines
0950-1010 Localization of Calcium Ion in Tropical Fruits with Hot Water Treatment
E. Nolasco, Y. Yaguchi, P.A. Nunez, J.D. Agapiente, T. Bana and M.C.C. Llanza, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan
1010-1030 Coffee Break

ORAL SESSION III (Chair: Edeline R. Soriano; Rapporteur: Leonida A. Arce)

1030-1040 Latent Spoiling and Other Postharvest Characteristics of Field-aged and Hot water-treated 'Carabao' Mangoes
E.V. Bayagan, E.B. Esquivel and R.T. Campion, DOCSIT, Philippines
1040-1100 Extending the Longevity of Cutflowers with 1-Methylcyclopropene
T.J. Hernandez, J.D. Agapiente and R.A. Rodriguez, PHIRC-UPLB, Philippines
1100-1120 Shelf Life of Minimally Processed Ready-to-Cook Vegetables
M.B. Flor, E.B. Esquivel, E.B. Esquivel and D.K. Bautista, PHIRC-UPLB, Philippines
1120-1140 Plastic Packaging of Fresh Cucumber
E.S. Dula, E.G. Ouyang and J.H. Lays, VSCA, Philippines
1140-1200 Market Overview and Strategies
Dana H. Winters, Consultant, DA and FRDL
1200-1330 Lunch Break

COMMERCIAL SESSION

1345-1400 Strategic cold chain partnership for maximum produce profitability
M.V. Young, Refrigerated Transport Services
SPECIAL EVENT
Enceps: Marilou V. Manzanar
Entrepreneurial opportunities in plant material preservation
C.F. Asensio, PHIRC-UPLB, Philippines
Coffee Break
1500-1545 POSTER SESSION
1545-1645 CLOSING CEREMONY
Introduction of the Speaker Perilla A. Nueva, Director, PHIRC
Closing Remarks - Luis Rey L. Velasco, Dean, College of Agriculture, UPLB

19 October 2001 (Friday)

Optional Tour (Villa Escudero and U.P. Los Baños)

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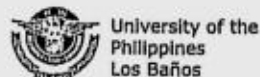
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UBS takes blame in Swissair debacle

ZURICH—The president of Switzerland's largest bank, UBS, has admitted errors in dealing with the crisis surrounding the country's crippled flag carrier Swissair.

UBS and Switzerland's second biggest bank, Credit Suisse, drew criticism for their part in the debacle, which saw Swissair ground all its planes on Tuesday, stranding thousands of passengers, before getting a short-term 300-million-euro (\$275-million) state lifeline.

The two banks had come up late Monday with a 1.35-billion-Swiss-franc (\$835-million) rescue package, agreeing to buy Swissair's 70-percent stake in Crossair for 260 million Swiss francs to allow the regional airline to carry on as the dominant partner.

But the payment for the holding arrived too late on Tuesday to enable Swissair to keep its fleet in the air as it was unable to pay its suppliers.

Swiss Finance Minister Kaspar Villiger had tried unsuccessfully to contact Osel that day by phone. The bank chief had been flying to the United States.

Nearly 40,000 passengers worldwide were left stranded on Wednesday by the suspended Swissair service.

UBS president Marcel Osel said on local television late Friday that he was postponing a trip to New York to concentrate on the Swissair problem.

"I offer my apologies to all concerned," he said.

On Wednesday, in an internal company memo, he had rejected any criticism, speaking of "allegations running counter to the truth".

Taking a more penitent stance on Friday, Osel voiced regret that some might have gotten the impression that the banks had left the airline in the lurch and stressed he was very concerned with the fate of the company and its clients.

The UBS chief admitted to have been told last Sunday that some of the Swissair fleet could be grounded due to liquidity problems.

"But to my eyes, it was clear that we could not cover all the costs of keeping all the flights in the air," he added.

His mistake may have been in not communicating clearly enough, he said. "But we were all under pressure."

Switzerland breathed a huge sigh of relief at signs of the resurrection of its hallowed flag carrier, a symbol of Swiss reliability and efficiency brought down by inability to pay for fuel and landing fees and threats of seizure of its aircraft.

However, the multi-million-dollar government loan raised concern in Brussels where the European Commission, worried about the competition implications, summoned the Swiss ambassador to the European Union.

AFP

Indonesian airline raises prices to cover rising insurance costs

JAKARTA—Indonesian flagship carrier Garuda Indonesia has imposed surcharges of \$5 per passenger on international routes to cover increased insurance premiums in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the US, travel agents said.

The surcharge went into effect on Monday, said Meity Robot of the Association of Indonesian Travel Agencies, quoted by Saturday's Jakarta Post.

"It is the first time in a decade. Even the Gulf War did not have an impact like this one," Robot told the Post.

A salesman with a local travel agent confirmed that travel agents had been imposing the five-dollar surcharge since Monday.

"The \$5 surcharge took effect on Monday of this week," the salesman told AFP.

But Garuda spokesman Pujobroto told the Post that the airline was "still discussing the possibility of imposing a surcharge."

The salesman said he was "not surprised" that Garuda had not officially announced the imposition of the surcharge.

"Communication among directors and the lower staff of Garuda is known to be quite bad," he added.

It was unclear whether the surcharge would also be imposed on domestic airlines.

Global insurers had raised premiums per passenger for third-party war and war-related insurance premiums following the Sept. 11 attacks on Washington and New York.

Garuda Finance Director Emirsyah Satar said earlier this week that the airline had secured coverage for third-party insurance of up to \$1 billion from firms based in London.

He said Garuda must also pay additional premiums of between \$20 million and \$25 million a year for the insurance coverage, as well as the obligation to pay about \$10 million annually for hull liability.

AFP

Non-Opec blamed for oil slide

TEHRAN—Iranian President Mohammad Khatami blamed the slumping crude prices on what he said was an output increase by non-Opec oil producers, state radio reported Saturday.

"The reason for the decrease in oil prices is an increase in production by non-Opec producers," Khatami told his Venezuelan counterpart, Hugo Chavez, during a telephone conversation late Friday cited by state radio.

The Saturday report said Khatami vowed that Opec members would "try to solve the problem," expressing hope that efforts by Iran, Venezuela and all other Opec members and non-Opec members would "prevent a crash in oil prices."

For his part, Chavez also expressed concern over

slumping prices and the hope that Opec and non-Opec oil producers would "find a solution" to the problem soon, the radio said.

On Friday, Opec Secretary General Ali Rodriguez said the Opec oil-producing cartel could cut production in response to slumping oil prices before expected US military action.

Crude prices have slumped in the wake of the terror attacks, as markets react to slowing demand from increasingly recession-hit economies around the world.

Opec, which produces 40 percent of the world's crude, held its nerve last week at a ministerial meeting in Vienna, keeping its production quotas unchanged despite slumping revenues.

AFP

Cut-price deal rings cell row

SINGAPORE—A cut-price promotion by leading Singapore carrier Singapore Telecommunications has rung a sour note with rival MobileOne, which claims that the 50-percent discount is illegal.

SingTel has halved airtel charges for all post-paid customers, with peak time charges coming down to 10 Singapore cents (5.6 US cents) a minute and off-peak charges reduced to five cents.

But MobileOne has gone to telecoms watchdog Info-communications Development Authority, arguing that the SingTel deal is discriminatory.

"It is our understanding that such a practice is viewed as discriminatory by IDA and is not allowed," MobileOne said in a statement.

"We will seek clarification from IDA, following which we will decide our response."

An IDA spokesperson indicated to reporters there appeared to be some merit in MobileOne's argument. "IDA is aware of the latest development in mobile pricing and is currently reviewing the situation," he said.

IDA policy "does not allow inter-operator and intra-operator network pricing differential for end users."

SingTel Mobile chief Lucas Chow said the discount was in response to customer needs.

"We have decided to introduce this discount as our research shows that it is one that is most preferred by our customers," he said.

AFP

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of September 21, 2001

ASSETS		Amount
Cash and Cash Items	P	4,150,587.27
Due from Central Bank		1,638,911,316.03
Due from Other Banks		3,392,919,894.45
Interbank Loans Receivable		550,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		857,200,785.49
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		4,275,192,737.83
Equity Investments (Net)		2,579,850.00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		441,774,528.49
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipments (Net)		13,875,585.87
Other Assets (Net): Others		237,243,487.70
TOTAL ASSETS	P	11,223,948,553.13
LIABILITIES		Amount
Demand Deposits	P	199,388,017.83
Savings Deposits		1,545,178,805.86
Time Deposits		2,455,470,410.42
Special/Other Deposits		9,105,071.01
Due to Central Bank		1,921,184.47
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		4,988,685,705.85
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,584,095.06
Bills Payable		162,534,512.89
Interbank Borrowings		927,569,054.18
Others		159,172.29
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		359,954,868.59
Other Liabilities		10,628,432,887.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	11,223,948,553.13
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		Amount
Assigned Capital	P	444,323,634.54
Other Capital Accounts		181,192,020.50
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	595,515,655.04
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		Amount
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	783,023,970.72
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		3,788,477,740.63
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		2,872,187,104.47
Other Contingent Accounts		1,782,165,335.33
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	9,195,822,151.15

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
HEAD OFFICE
As At 30 September 2000
In AUD Millions

Capital	5,402
Surplus	4,405
Profits	3,657
Total Deposits	100,609
Total Resources	172,467
Other Information	
1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	nil
b. Banks	218,228.50
c. Trust Department	nil
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
Prescribed Ratio	6% Small Ent.
Actual Compliance	103%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	P 175,181,020.35
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to total loan portfolio	3.71%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	164,311,000.00
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	39,991,078.17
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	88,660,215.55
8. Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Assigned Capital	24.90%
9. Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Shareholder's Equity	25.87%
10. Return on Equity (ROE) - Inclusive of Net Due to HO	8.99%
11. Amount of DOSTRI loans/advances	2,856,611.55
12. Ratio of DOSTRI loans/advances to total loans/advances	0.07%
13. Amount of Past Due DOSTRI loans/advances	nil
14. Ratio of Past Due DOSTRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	nil
15. "Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank	P 4,928,911,177.38

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

WE, ANDREW HOLDSOCK and ARILNO MAGSABAY of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) ANDREW HOLDSOCK
Chief Operating Officer

(Sgd.) ARILNO MAGSABAY
Assistant Vice-President
Operations

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____, affiants exhibiting to me their Passport No. 500153350, issued at U.K., on November 16, 1995 and Community Tax Certificate No. 04165505, issued at Makati City, on February 21, 2001.

NOTARY PUBLIC

Unit Dec. 31, _____
PTR No. _____
Date Issued _____

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Page No. _____
Some of _____

Sumitomo, Mitsui insurance to merge

TOKYO—Two major Japanese health insurance companies have started talks over possible management integration to create the second largest life insurer in Japan, a news report said Saturday.

Sumitomo Life Insurance Co., the third largest Japanese mutual life insurer, and Mitsui Mutual Life Insurance Co., the seventh largest, are expected to transform into stock-issuing companies under a new

holding firm, Asahi Shimbun reported. "If they merge, they would become the second largest health insurer, after the market leader Nippon Life Insurance Co. in terms of combined asset and the number of contracts," Asahi said.

Sumitomo and Mitsui have already formed an alliance on their management of securities in fiscal 2000, and "they have been rapidly strengthening their relation-

ships," Asahi said. However, spokespersons from Sumitomo and Mitsui Saturday categorically denied the report, both saying "no such discussion exists."

"There are no such facts as reported by Asahi," a Sumitomo spokesperson said. Sumitomo and Mitsui separately issued statements denying the report.

The two companies have been trying to re-

gain their financial health, Asahi said, adding that it might take several years before the two finish preparations to become stock companies.

Rock-bottom interest rates have crippled Japan's life insurers. A crippling negative spread resulted in five insurance company casualties last year including the collapse in October of Chiyoda Mutual Life Insurance Co. and Kyoei Life Insurance Co., Japan's worst post-war corporate failures.

AFP

Japan to delay ruling on towel imports row

TOKYO—Japan will delay a decision on whether to charge emergency tariffs on imports of cheap towels from Asian nations, a report said Saturday.

"The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry decided Friday to postpone by six months its decision on whether to impose emergency restrictions on towel imports, especially Chinese products," the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper reported.

An industry association for Japanese towel makers asked the ministry in February to impose special tariffs to stop surging towel imports, especially from China and Vietnam, hurting domestic towel producers.

From April 16, the ministry decided to conduct a six-month investigation on the alleged damage done by cheap imports on the financial health of domestic towel makers.

But the ministry decided to push back its decision to impose tariffs from the original deadline of Oct. 15 in part because foreign-made towels recently had stopped flooding into Japan, the newspaper said.

Also, Japanese officials believed it would be better to decide on the matter after China's expected entry into the World Trade Organization next year, it said.

"The ministry said it believes that imposing so-called safeguard

import curbs in line with WTO rules at the moment could provoke China to take retaliatory measures, as the country now has no obligations to abide by WTO rules that prohibit retaliatory steps against safeguard actions," Nihon Keizai said.

Government officials were not available Saturday for comment.

In April, Tokyo slapped emergency tariffs on imports of spring onions, fresh mushrooms and tatami rushes to protect local businesses from cheap foreign goods under WTO rules.

China, the top exporter of these products to Japan, was the government's main target.

In retaliation, Beijing imposed 100-percent extra tariffs on automobiles, mobile telephones and air conditioners made in Japan, souring ties with Japan.

To mend ties with China and South Korea, which have grown increasingly wary after a series of spat over a controversial history textbook and a Japanese war shrine, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is set to visit Beijing on Monday and Seoul on Oct. 15.

"As Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is scheduled to visit Beijing, the Cabinet Secretariat and the Foreign Ministry have asked the Trade Ministry to avoid increasing trade tensions between Japan and China," Nihon Keizai said. AFP

TSMC to open office in China

TAIPEI—The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) said Saturday it would soon open an office in Shanghai to facilitate its investment in the mainland.

"TSMC would soon open the office in Shanghai, but how soon it will happen depends on the administrative procedure," said JH Tzeng, manager of TSMC's public relations department.

The company was reviewing proposals for locating its office in Shanghai, he told AFP.

TSMC announced last month it would set up a liaison office in Shanghai to study business conditions on the mainland, a company statement said Friday.

But the office would not be looking at investing on the mainland in the near-term as such investments are still banned by Taiwan government regulations.

The Shanghai office would play a strictly exploratory role, while the company's headquarters in Taipei would be responsible for final approval of China-bound investment after the ban is lifted.

TSMC said it believed China was not ready to develop 12-inch wafer foundry operations, but the mainland could be ready for such facilities in three to five years.

AFP

UMC cuts 2001 earnings forecast

TAIPEI—Taiwan's second largest microchip maker revised downward on Saturday its 2001 profit forecast to a net loss of 3.21 billion Taiwan dollars (\$92.8 million) from the previous forecast—a net profit of \$13.33 billion.

United Microelectronics Corp. said the revision came in light of a weaker-than-expected performance of the global semiconductor industry and slow economic recovery.

The company's sales for the year were forecast at \$63.55 billion, down 25.3 percent from a previous estimate, it said in a statement.

UMC's operating profit for 2001, previously forecast at \$11.33 billion, gave way to a loss of \$5.3 billion, while pretax loss was projected at \$6.4 billion against an earlier forecast of \$13.34 billion in profit, it said.

The company's strong exposure to the communication segment was expected to negatively affect its near-term performance as demand fell in the sector, it said.

However, UMC said it remained confident it would benefit from a long-term partnership with communication customers once the industry recovers from the slump.

Other than its plan to reduce its 8-inch wafer capacity by one-third, UMC said it had closed a licensed product division, adding losses associated with the closure contributed to the deterioration of the company's financial performance.

Despite the current difficulties, UMC said it expected its research and development expenses to grow 47 percent year-on-year to \$8.75 billion, or 14 percent of its forecast revenues for 2001.

UMC said it stood by its previously stated guidance for the third and fourth quarters, despite the low visibility for the industry, as revenues should have hit bottom in the third quarter with a 15- to 20-percent quarter-on-quarter decline.

AFP



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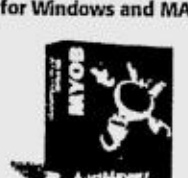


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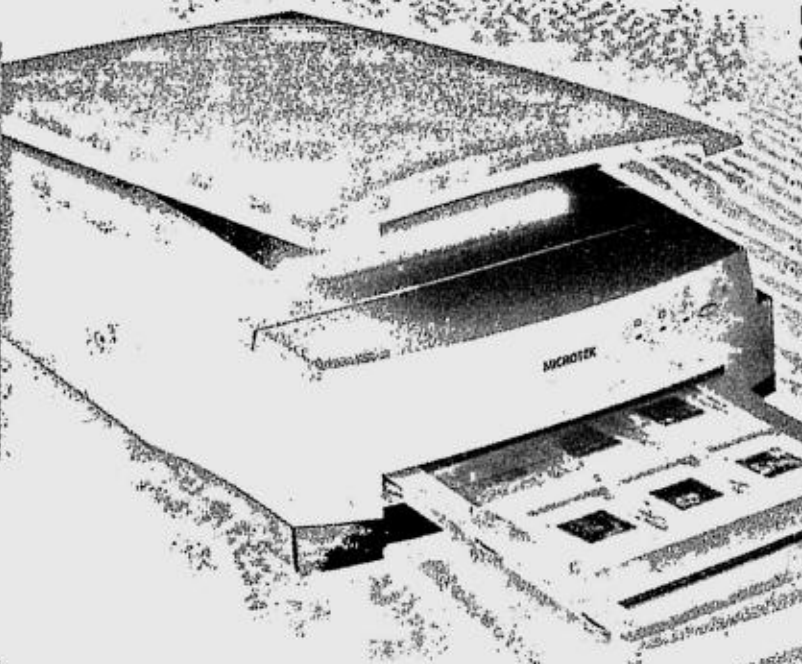
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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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Rice in warehouses safe-NFA

THE NATIONAL Food Authority assures the public that it is taking good care of the rice stored in its warehouses to ensure their quality and safety through its stock quality assurance and warehouse maintenance program.

This assurance is issued in the wake of several news reports alleging that rice stocks imported by the government and presently stored in a warehouse in Batangas were "rotting".

NFA technology resource development department (TRDD) head Cris Mangaoang said the stocks have been properly maintained since their arrival into the country in February and March this year. "In fact, fumigation was conducted on said stocks only last month," he said. The same care and quality assurance is undertaken by the NFA on a regular basis on all its stock inventories nationwide, Mangaoang said.

"What was probably observed on the stocks in Batangas were psocids, a nuisance pest that is normally present in imported rice. However, these are beneficial to the stock itself because they prey on the dust and power produced on the milled rice as a result of storage," Mangaoang explained.

Mangaoang also informed that prior to importation, the suppliers agree with the NFA on the quality specifications of the stock. The NFA ensures, through appointed surveyors and quality assurance officers, that the same specifications are met from loading at

the port of origin (exporting country) until they are unloaded in the designated Philippine port, he said.

Just before the stocks are received in a designated warehouse, residual spraying is done all over the storage facility, from the floors to the roof and walls, Mangaoang said. This is to ensure that the area is rid of pests before stocking it with the staple, he said. "On a quarterly basis, we also conduct quality assurance activities on all our stocks across the country. This is in addition to our spot quality inspections on the stocks and warehouses and the annual management audit conducted by our Internal Audit Department," Mangaoang explained.

Furthermore, stocks are checked of its quality just before taking them out from the warehouses to ensure that they arrive on the consumers' hands in good quality and safe condition, Mangaoang said.

Aside from the warehouseman, the NFA also has an army of quality assurance officers who are responsible for ensuring the quality of the agency's stocks and proper maintenance of the warehouses through its Good Warehousekeeping Program. Other quality control measures done on the agency's stocks include periodic pest control treatments such as spraying, fogging and fumigation to prevent storage pest infestation.

In 1993, the NFA launched an an-

nual search for outstanding warehousemen and best managed warehouses. With token prizes and recognition, this activity has inspired greater responsibility, accountability and commitment among NFA's warehousemen in the aspect of proper stock quality and good warehousekeeping.

In 1996, the NFA also launched the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP) which seeks to institute proper quality specifications and labeling on all the rice stocks traded within the country. This also complies with domestic standards on the cereal trade. "This is why one can see in the rice retail store some color coded rice trays and sacks," Mangaoang informed.

Still, in 1999, the agency launched the Linis Bayan and Waste Management projects, which both address the need for ensuring a clean and orderly environment both in the vicinity of all NFA offices and storage facilities as well as the public markets where rice and other food commodities are being traded.

The NFA acts as "stabilizer" of the grains industry. This is the reason for it maintain an appropriate volume of buffer stock to meet any emergency. Under a surplus situation the agency holds on to its rice reserves so as not to depress market prices. This is specially done during harvest time so that local palay farmers will not be adversely affected.



7 BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL ENVOYS TO GO TO GERMANY

Capping a three-day eco-camp program, seven young college students from various parts of the country were selected from 16 Bayer Young Environmental Envoys chosen earlier to join their counterparts from Thailand and Singapore in a week-long, all-expense paid educational trip to Germany this October. The seven students awarded the trip were the following: Leonardo Anderle of UP Los Baños, Tara Cantones of University of San Carlos (Cebu), Jean Dalagan of Mindanao State University (Marawi), Janice Lao of Ateneo de Manila, Benjamin Luis of UP Baguio, Graciela Mante of University of Cebu, and Jane Uy of Ateneo de Davao, with Lao topping the batch. These seven envoys will have the opportunity to get firsthand impressions of the broad spectrum of environmental protection measures that government and industry employ today in Germany. Senator Loren Legarda, a noted environmentalist, was keynote speaker for the evening. Also shown, at left, is Dr. Iris Loettgert of Bayer. The Search for Bayer Young Environmental Envoys was launched by Bayer Philippines Inc. in partnership with Luntiang Pilipinas, an urban forestry program founded and chaired by Senator Legarda and with the full support of CHED.



9-BALL AT RPN 9

RPN president and general manager lawyer Lincoln L. Tan, Jr. formally opens the 1st RPN-9 Billiard Tournament at the National Sports Grill. Also shown are RPN's top executives and business partners (from left) Fedor Garcia (RPN), Mando Cosio of AMA, Glenn Bangulis of Ace Saatchi, Deanne Lacuna, Cencio C. dela Cruz (RPN), Noy Firmacion of Solar Entertainment Group, Bill Carlos, Vic dy Echo (RPN) and Manny Carvajal of DYR. This is the newest competition aimed to forge new ties and rekindle friendship among RPN's loyal friends.



CHIKKA AGREEMENT WITH QNET

Chikka Holdings Inc. has formalized agreement with Qnet Communications Inc. (a subsidiary of IT investment firm AJOnet Holdings Inc.) to incorporate Chikka TXT Messenger on its network of fully functional PC kiosks and terminals that are deployed in Manila and Hong Kong. Chikka TXT Messenger is a two-way messaging service that allows PC users and GSM mobile subscribers to text each other in real time. Both companies are set to provide communication services targeted for Filipinos living abroad to easily get in touch with their friends and relatives back home. Qnet will soon expand its operations in Taiwan, Singapore and Middle East. Shown (from left) are AJOnet vice president Gio Bacarez and Chikka chief executive officer Dennis Mendiola shaking hands with Qnet president Cyril Santiago and Chikka chief marketing officer Eugene Enriquez.



TOP WINNERS WIN HOUSE AND LOTS

Two house and lots from Robinsons Homes South Square Village were recently awarded to (third from left) Mariel Alcaraz, a resident of Calamba, Laguna and (fourth from left) Jaymie Casupan, a resident of Imus, Cavite, top winners of the recently concluded Home Free Home, a raffle promotion held in cooperation with Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Homes and the Robinsons Malls. Shown are the winners receiving the transfer of certificate of title (TCT) from Robinsons Homes Inc.'s sales operations manager Lito Nebre (second from left) and from the Robinsons Malls' ad and promo manager Tess Miranda (fifth from left). Robinsons Supermarket Corp.'s marketing services manager Abel Tejam (left) and Robinsons Department Store's marketing services manager Patis Cruz (sixth from left) were also present to congratulate the winners.

Brothers delivers

BROTHERS Burger fanatics can now happily satisfy the urge for heavenly burgers at the comforts of their own home and office, with the delivery service. Just call the Brothers Burger Delivery hotline.

For quick yet satisfying lunch, dinners or snacks, indulge with Brothers Burger, Double Brothers Burger, Big Brothers Burger or Brothers Pounder. Top the burger of your choice with their wide array of Toppings N Dips, namely onions, cheese, mushroom, honey-dijon mushroom, teriyaki, chili, bacon cream cheese with garlic, blue cheese, pesto mayo, Oriental mayo, Jalapeno cheese, Cilantro cheese, Wasabi and Black pepper garlic sauce. Brothers also serves gourmet sandwiches like Brothers Cheese Steak, Brothers Chicken Sandwich, Brothers Zumo Chicken Sandwich, Brothers Crispy Fish Sandwich and pasta dishes like Brothers Creamy Chicken and Brothers Pesto.

Brothers Burger is run by brothers Quito and Martin Jose. Brothers Burger outlets are found at Rockwell Center, Don Bosco Street corner Pasong Tamo, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas, and E. Rodriguez Avenue in Libis. Delivery numbers are 899-8358 / 899-8259 (Rockwell); 894-4364 / 894-4367 (Pasong Tamo); 637-7509 / 687-3057-58 (Ortigas Center).

PLAI confab

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI) 2001 board of trustees will hold the forthcoming PLAI national conference. The theme is "PLAI 2001 and beyond: Strengthening Partnerships and Linkages". It will be held from Oct. 8 to 10 at Green Heights Business and Convention Center Corp., Diversion Road, Buhangin, Davao City. For more information, call Rebecca M. Jacon at 527-9071 to 74 loc. 44, telefax 872-2729; Marlo C. Chavez at 735-6011, and Elnora L. Conti at 526-8295.



SUN LIFE AMONG BEST EMPLOYERS

Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc. president Esther Tan accepts the Best Employers in Asia-Philippines award on behalf of the Sun Life Financial Group of Companies. Shown from left are Ravi Virmani, Hewitt Associates regional manager for South Asia; David Alexander Platt, Far Eastern Economic Review deputy director; Esther Tan, and Ricardo Pascua, president of the Management Association of the Philippines, which hosted the awarding ceremony at the Manila Peninsula Sept. 24.



ASIAFOOD EXPO EXHIBITOR

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon visited the booth of Teope Commercial during the AsiaFood Expo 2001 recently at the World Trade Center. Shown (from left) were Leonides Cuizon, president of Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions Inc.; George Ruffner, commercial counselor, US embassy; Michael Malinowski, chargé d'affaires, US embassy; Peter Teope, vice president, Teope Commercial and governor Antonio Leviste of the Board of Investments. Teope Commercial is one of the most recognized and respected pioneers of import trading in the Philippines. It is involved in the importation and nationwide distribution of groceries and household goods mainly from the United States. Teope Commercial is inside the US Pavilion.



HONESTY PAYS

Florita Mondoyo, the Manila International Airport Authority janitress who found and returned \$10,000 to an Indian national now owns the Bravo Card featuring the Family Protector Plan, Emergency Ambulance Service and Medical and Dental Consultation with annual physical examination, all free for a deed well appreciated. The Family Protector Plan includes a Family Personal Accident Insurance for Mondoyo and other co-insured members of her family. Shown are (from left) Domingo P. Abrera Jr., Bravo card marketing manager; Nelson G. Primavera, Bravo Card COO; Mondoyo; Dina De Leon, terminal operations officer A, MIAA, and Edgardo C. Manda, general manager, MIAA.



MSV DRAW

DTI director Amaldo del Rosario (left) is seen with Dottie Pineda, Lerma Scu and Meg Nambio of Bookware Publishing Corp. during the monthly draw of Nokia 3310 promo held at the MSV offices in Pasig. For the readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, its lucky winner is Elisa Estera of Galimud, Ilocos Sur. The company also announces that it's still accepting manuscripts from new romance novelists. For details, call 631-8893 to 94.



ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

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AIM is an institution totally dedicated to the full emancipation of the human mind, the human heart and the human spirit as we elevate management education to the zenith of all human aspirations....

The AIM renaissance

The time has come to humanize management education...

— Prof. Eduardo A. Morato, Jr.
Dean of the Institute

OVER the last 33 years, the Asian Institute of Management has undergone a metamorphosis of great proportions. Since its early cocoon years as a purely business school, the AIM has been steadily extending its reach to now include development management for leaders in government and private voluntary organizations.

At the close of the 20th century, we opened a new market hitherto unexplored by the Institute. We ventured into entrepreneurship to service the managerial requirements of the micro, small and medium scale enterprises.

Today, at the threshold of the third millennium, the AIM spreads its butterfly wings to soar onto the technological world of the New Economy and likewise strengthen the humanistic fields of management — in the arts, healthcare, education, and the environment. Indeed, the AIM has become a full spectrum management institute servicing distinct

market segments through highly differentiated product offerings.

This moment is the Renaissance of AIM — our coming of age as an all-round management institute — multi-dimensional, multi-faceted and multi-form — deeply immersed in the Asian milieu but fully adapted to withstand the tremors of globalization. A brief flashback to that exciting age in human history called the Renaissance provides the inspiration for the AIM's bold flight towards uncharted skies with innovations in management education.

The Renaissance Spirit

The Renaissance period witnessed the rebirth of Italy during the 14th and 15th century A.D. It was the first era in human history which recognized itself as a distinct age. The era rose from the ashes of the "Dark Ages" which began with the sacking of Rome by barbarians 10 centuries earlier. These Dark or Middle Ages were considered quite backward as it focused on theological studies and other impractical pursuits which Renaissance scholars deemed as too pre-occupied with man's sinfulness and the search for his lost soul.

Instead, the Renaissance writers celebrated man as a creator — with a deep appreciation of himself and his ability to seize opportunities by taming the vagaries of fortune with human resourcefulness. Fate and chance were not to be feared, but instead, to be taken advantage of. Prudence and skill were at man's command as depicted in the dolphin and anchor emblem of a famous Renaissance publishing house: the dolphin symbolizing navigational prowess and the anchor symbolizing restraint or

well-calculated deliberation.

The Renaissance period saw the revival of interest in classical Greece and Rome. The Renaissance men and women rediscovered their traditional roots. As they tapped the wisdom of the ages and explored their vast reservoir of knowledge, the Renaissance era acquired a heightened awareness of man — as Man.

Along with that awareness, they embraced the pursuit of all worthwhile human endeavors: from art to politics, from law to literature, from commerce to science. The Renaissance scholar sought truth and was willing to challenge long-held beliefs. Towards the end of the Renaissance, a paradigm shift had taken place and a different world view prevailed. Copernicus published his treatise on the solar system and put to question the heretofore widely accepted conviction that the universe revolved around the Earth.

Among the greatest of the Renaissance figures period stood Leonardo da Vinci — the personification of the Renaissance Man. Irrepressible curiosity led him to study anatomy, botany, geology, mechanics and astronomy. Recognized as one of the greatest artists of his time and the forerunner of Modern Man, his plans and drawings presaged the helicopter, the submarine, the machine gun, and the motor car. He always signed his name: Leonardo da Vinci — disciple of experience.

Taking inspiration from this quintessential Renaissance Man, we boldly borrow the Renaissance spirit and declare the Asian Institute of Management's own Renaissance — our liberating experiment to humanize management education and nurture the full flowering of the human potential.

AIM for Big Business

When AIM was founded in 1968, it had a singular focus: to be the premiere graduate school of business in Asia. The whole purpose of educating bright young men and women was to prepare them for the highly competitive world of big business. To jump-start all the rest, AIM partnered with the Harvard Business School. We mastered their teaching technology — the case method — and donned the garb of no-nonsense business professors who sharpened the minds, hardened the hearts and steered the wills of our students to survive in the dog-eat-dog world of multinationals, big conglomerates, global banks, and large family corporations.

We just had one product for this market: the two-year Master in Business Management (MBM) Program. Then we split this market into two: the MBM for the younger managerial wannabes aged 23 to 30 years old and the one-year Master in Management (MM) for the mid-career managers whose ages ranged from 30 to 50 years. Simultaneously, we embarked on short-term executive courses aimed at the same big business market. We offered a full range of basic, middle and top management programs. This was the first AIM, the AIM of Big Business, the AIM of the North.

AIM for the Masses

Sometime in the late '70's, the AIM undertook a field research program on rural development. It was meant to study management at the community level as we learned how government and non-government organizations played their parts in the social milieu of the underprivileged and the marginalized sectors of the

economy.

By 1985, we began to offer a one-month Program for Development Management (PDM) that was designed to hone the skills of leaders and managers in community-oriented institutions. When my mentor, the late Gaston Z. Ortigas, Sr., and I came back from our respective seven-year sojourns in 1986, we decided to drop the "R" from the Rural Development Management Program. We escalated the scope of the program to include policy-making, area management at the national and provincial levels, sectoral management ranging from agrarian reform to health, agriculture, education, and even foreign affairs. We examined public governance at the highest level while not leaving grassroots management of people's organizations behind.

In August 1988, I proposed to develop a one-year Master in Development Management (MDM) Program for public officials as well as for leaders of private development institutions and international aid agencies. Shortly thereafter, in July 1989, we launched the Program.

In 1991, we created the Center for Development Management (CDM), which began to offer both degree and certificate courses that covered the broad spectrum of development management. This was the second AIM, a truly home-grown, totally Asian, and an unabashedly value-driven mission of love. This was the AIM of the South, the AIM for the Masses of Asia.

AIM for Entrepreneurs

In 1996, after another seven-year hiatus from the MDM launching, I proposed the creation of an Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) which was readily approved by the faculty and the Board of Trustees. Without copying or borrowing from any existing model then, we created a radically innovative program aimed at small and medium scale entrepreneurs that brought AIM to an entirely new market heretofore untapped.

There ensued three years of field research all over Asia — from the Philippines to India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. We studied small enterprises as well as clan or family conglomerates. We looked at micro and social enterprises. We examined the works of corporate intrapreneurs. We partnered with chambers of commerce, industry associations and government institutions dedicated to enterprise development. We experimented with one-week entrepreneurial courses.

Finally, in 1999, we unveiled the revolutionary Master in Entrepreneurship course. It is for entrepreneurs who are very active in running their own business, or for COO's — Children of Owners — who are about to assume the mantle of leadership from their parents. It is a revolution in management education for several reasons. The entrance requirement is not an IQ exam but, simply, the active ownership of an enterprise. The

THE AIM/ B14

THE MASTER IN MANAGEMENT The program for strategic business leaders

EXTERNAL environmental factors determine what future Asian leader-managers need to do well in order to excel. Regional political, socio-economic and technological turbulence, coupled with intense competition and the pressure to always "do more with less" require flexible, generalist managers who can:

- Create Business Value — managing the linkages between Marketing, Operations, HR, IT, and Finance to deliver maximum customer and stakeholder value and exercise responsible corporate citizenship
- Manage Strategically — "sensing" the environment for business opportunities and threats, establishing direction, crafting and implementing strategies to build and maintain competitive advantage
- Lead for Results — effectively influencing persons, work teams and the organization to commit to a shared vision, adapt quickly to change, build necessary capability, and produce "breakthrough" results
- Learn Independently and as a Group — knowing and managing personal strengths and shortcomings (a prerequisite for improving performance as managers and leaders), and having the ability to learn quickly as individuals and in groups, especially in dealing with unfamiliar situations and in aligning personal and group goals to the shared vision. Accelerating external changes and intense competition have made this learning ability the

"last real competitive advantage."

• Attain Breakthrough Results: Integration — Research has shown that to survive in the long run it is no longer enough for organizations to deliver incremental gains in customer and stakeholder value. The capacity to create "breakthrough results" or "quantum leaps" has become necessary.

Business Leader-Managers

The Master in Management (MM) is an intensive, eleven-month graduate management program on Business Leadership and Strategic Management. The faculty of the Program is committed to turn out graduates who will become skillful and knowledgeable leader-managers, ready for career growth and its concomitant challenge.

Acceptance to the MM Program is premised on certain qualifications: significant work experience (at least 6 years) and substantial supervisory/managerial experience (at least 3 years). Applicants should be at least 28 years old. We therefore assume that the student is already competent in at least one functional area, e.g., Finance, Marketing, Production, Human Resource, etc. The Program develops both intellectual and behavioral skills, within the context of the functional areas, but from a general manager's

THE PROGRAM/ B13

Managers know what — leaders know how

THE Master in Management leadership program is not about answers. It is about process. Instead of factory-made solutions, we were given tools to carve our own. And so, our learning could not possibly be confined to case facts. It had to be lived out.

We lived it out in the exchange of ideas in the Caserom and on the Web. We lived it out in our "Can Group" discussions, in our MRR and Walkabout. We lived it out in our Management Games and Team-Building Exercises. But also, we lived it out in our end-of-module Socials. In our "half-life" Lunches. And yes, out in Boracay, Cebu and Bacolod. With colleagues infusing the influence of 12 different and rich cultures and sub-cultures across Asia.

The MM Class of 2001 is unprecedented, with the biggest number of self-financed students — executives who waged everything, especially a comfortable life. To learn more. To be polished. But most important of all, to make that comfortable life — meaningful.

Wherever two or more of us MMs gathered, there was bound to be yap. Objections to norms. Questions on the status quo. Disagreeing without being disagreeable, being different without being intolerably difficult. Constantly negotiating for what we thought we wanted out of this Program, we made MM history: we asked for more management games, we got three versus the standard one; we wanted more functional focus, the Program offered electives in fields of specialty we voted as our greatest need.

Our MM was a Program designed by professors who cared to listen. And we the hungry-for-learning feasted on the intensive and extensive buffet of intellectual capital laid before us by 12 core faculty and 21 guest lecturers in all of our 11 months at the AIM. And now, at its closure....

Allan S. Gensoli, MM01

AIM Commencement Exercises, May 2001

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT The new MBM: a mandate to produce CEOs for Asia

THE new millennium warrants a New MBM delivered out of the equally "renaissant" AIM Graduate School of Business Management — the now distinct home-base of the Master in Business Management and its twin business program, the Master in Management. Given the changing nature of its operating environment, perforce Asian business management educators must innovate.

Thirty-three years ago in 1968, the Master in Business Management was introduced as the signature course of the Asian Institute of Management — the pioneering initiative of Asian visionaries who foresaw the need for an institution that will prepare Asians to preside over the transformation of the region as an industrial and commercial hub.

To this day, the MBM Program remains the management education vehicle that provides for individual growth and development, leading to professional advancement in business and management. A core group of practitioner-oriented faculty draws from a wealth of international experience and exposure to continuously keep the MBM Program in-step with the managerial demands of Asia's dynamic business environment.

With the onslaught of globalization, the emergence of IT technology, the growing importance of total quality management, the need for cross-cultural sensitivity, and the pressing call for responsible corporate citizenry — the MBM Program is geared to produce the new CEOs needed by the 21st century Asian corporate world — men and women who are driven by ambition and success, skillful and competent, entrepreneurial in spirit, and above all — socially responsible.

The MBM Experience

Transformation is central to the MBM experience. In 2 years, students develop critical thinking, analytical and communication skills. In 2 years, students think entrepreneurial. In 2 years, students learn to run corporations, big or small, private

or public, in any segment of the business world, in any industry that thrives in the region and beyond. In 2 years, students develop an acute sense of corporate social responsibility.

The typical MBM caserom is a board room in-the-making, and at times, a virtual executive dining room. The exchanges between faculty and students are characteristically lively discussions — sometimes fun, often intense, always dynamic. Restless minds, raring to scale corporate heights, are awakened to the meaning and implications of tactical and strategic thinking. They are pushed to the limits to sharpen skills and expand capabilities. Matched by their innate ambition, the absorption of new knowledge is purposefully calibrated to leave students striving and seeking for more.

At the end of Year I, MBM students are exposed to the realities of the business world through the Action Consultancy, an eight-week period during which he/she becomes a "Consultant" to a business entity, providing answers and solutions to management problems. By then, the enterprising candidate can already undertake a business/management project, evaluate a management process, assess a business opportunity, conduct an audit, run and improve a program, or formulate corporate strategy.

To wrap-up the experience, students integrate all the skills and learnings acquired along the way via an intensive and challenging research initiative called the Management Research Report (MRR). This may take the form of a Corporate Strategy or a Feasibility Study. It can involve research for enterprise development or for corporate positioning. Students may also opt to do a business venture.

Under the student exchange program, MBM students can spend one term in a partner school in Asia, Australia, Europe, or North America. Counterpart overseas students from prestigious partner schools take courses and share their ideas, insights and experiences with the AIM community.

Re-Engineering for the New Millennium

Globally-induced developments mandate a pro-active response:

• **Competition.** The resurgence of the Chinese and Indian economies and the emergent economies of Southeast Asia pose a real challenge to both Western and fellow-Asian enterprises. Already, China's business activism has resulted in an increased market-share at the expense of Asian neighbors. Globalization, heretofore identified with big Western-based companies, is taking on a different character given the once predicted, now actual, proliferation of Chinese multinational companies. Simultaneously, the phenomenon of Western-based companies and even management educators establishing themselves in China and elsewhere in the region has further tightened the competition not only for markets but also for well-trained, cross-culturally astute managers.

Parallel business developments in India, especially in the technological field, are precursors of the inevitable economic revival of Asia's traditional sleeping giants whose combined populations are a staggering 2 billion+. The steadily flourishing economies of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos are witnessing unprecedented inflows of millions of foreign direct investments. Obviously, China, India and the countries of Indo-China present problems and opportunities for Asian managers that the MBM Program must consciously address as it provides training and development for Asian managers region-wide.

• **The Wired World.** Digitalization has shrunk the business world to heretofore unimagined proportions. From a positive perspective, the speed and the manner by which information is delivered has resulted in lower costs, quicker processing, more efficient systems beneficial in daily life and across business and industry sectors. For management education, the implications are astounding in terms of the quality of academic

THE NEW/ B12

The making of an Asian development manager

Development managers must effect significant social change in 21st century Asia

— Associate Dean Ernesto D. Garilao
AIM Center for Development Management

INTO the third millennium, the Asian region continues to transition: from authoritarian regimes to democratic rule, from centric political systems to decentralized modes of governance, and from centrally planned to bustling market economies. Development issues — old and new — continuously rise to the surface posing tougher challenges: the globalization and e-technologies interface with seemingly endemic economic (enterprise development and recovery from the financial crisis), social (poverty eradication, health, and education), political (human rights and development), and environmental (sustainable development) concerns.

"Transitional countries need to confront management issues to ensure successful and sustainable change," says former Secretary of Agrarian Reform and AIM-Center for Development Management Associate Dean Ernesto D. Garilao. "We purposefully redesigned our Master in Development Management Program (MDM) to make it more responsive to the challenges facing the region in the 21st century. We are determined to enhance the knowledge, skills and perspectives of development managers and leaders to help them resolve emergent problems unique to their time and area."

People as Focal Point

Asia's burgeoning poor require massive public prosperity-building and asset and human capital-formation to achieve genuine human development. This requires a compelling social commitment on the part of development managers and leaders whose core values provide the impetus for action: growth, popular participation, equity, transparency, accountability, and sustainability. "These values are built into the different modules to serve as the thread running through the entire MDM program," Garilao emphasizes.

Development managers are called upon to operate effectively within the context of Asian cross-governance systems, especially since the resolution of a country's political, societal and economic issues and concerns involves the active engagement of the state, the market and civil society. Drawing from his own reformist career experiences, Garilao explicates the nature of the true "Master" of development management: "Development managers are visionary and transformational leaders. They are change agents for the common good. They must create public value and maximize the sustainable public good. Development managers are inclusive leaders and public sector reformers. They are analytical, strategic implementers and institution-builders. The MDM acknowledges these."

do with limited, and often, inferior resources. Having dedicated themselves to help the poor who have the least resources, they manage to succeed due to the totality of their commitment. In fact, this is what motivates them and not resources. The superiority of their strategies and the "superbness" of their projects spell the difference.

Managing Trends, Transitions and the Complexities

An MDM student once said that while it is helpful to learn all the tools and frameworks of development management, the real world is so "chaotic" that no one solution can address problems brought about by its complexities. The question then is how development managers should deal with these intricacies.

One solution might be to explore concepts, trends and processes that would enable development managers to think "outside the box." The possibility of putting order in disorder, and the challenge of matching theory with action or "praxis" can be achieved through the discernment of trends and patterns with a holistic and integrated approach. Veering away from the microscopic mode of analysis in solving development problems, one must take a deeper look at the larger-scale challenge presented by the global community in managing development trends and transitions. This is a must for today's development managers.

Superior Strategies

It was Henry Kissinger who previously noted that revolutionaries always start with inferior resources. The question then is: Why do some of them succeed at all? And why—a few—so brilliantly? Like revolutionaries, development managers always have to make



Prof. Victor S. Limlingan, CDM's resident Guru, argues that "...to do good effectively, consistently and efficiently, the development manager must, indeed, design a superior strategy, which makes irrelevant the limited and inferior resources. The key is not to come up with elaborate structures, but rather, the adoption of a simplifying approach when it comes to designing structures with inferior resources."

To be able to use the strength of the system against itself, a development manager must learn to be thoroughly familiar with the system: a knowledge of components, an understanding of functions, tracing interconnections, knowing the technocrats who run the system, and mastering the power that moved and motivated it.

On occasion, meager resources on hand can dismay development managers. But there lies hope in the view that the numerous poor are promising human capital — a necessary ingredient in strategic, successful and sustainable

development management — waiting to be productively harnessed. Limlingan strongly believes that development managers should be guided by the following public policy principles:

- Human capital is not a cost to be avoided, but a resource to be drawn upon as a priority.

- Human capital is not a commodity to be traded, but a product to be upgraded.

- Human capital is not a factor of production to be integrated into the economy, but a community of people to be liberated from poverty.

- Human capital must be consistently utilized and constantly developed as the competitive advantage of the venture.

- Raw materials preferably sourced from discarded or recycled products, and not human capital, are the source of cost-competitiveness.

- Responsible management, and again, not human capital, creates and maintains the flexibility to cope with globalization and the volatile business environment.

- Superior strategy, and not the sacrifice of human capital, brings success to the enterprise.

In creating a superior culture with inferior resources, the premise is that development managers should not simply compensate for their inferior resources by demanding great sacrifices

from themselves and their people. Simple sacrificing does not guarantee success. It merely indicates the brain's sloth. To quote Gen. Douglas MacArthur: "I will not take by sacrifice what I can take by strategy."

Leadership with Inferior Resources but Superb Projects

Development managers must begin with a full knowledge and mastery of self. They must necessarily identify appropriate leadership skills, define leadership roles and craft leadership styles. In the field of development management, a special brand of leadership is most appropriate: Servant Leadership. Development managers must commit themselves to service for the greater good.

The innovative and intuitive minds of development managers allow them to veer away from the traditional and technical underpinnings of existing views on development projects. They learn to look into and use the culinary process as model for crafting superb projects. Not only is this approach apt, more importantly, it is evocative and comprehensible to the poor.

Limlingan's concept of a superb project as superb cuisine is a combination of the following:

- a superb cook—the project manager—makes sure that the project is

completed to perfection;

- a superb recipe — a project plan — formalizes the art and skill of the project manager;

- local ingredients — the project inputs — are readily available in the area;

- the cooking process — the project implementation — is systematically executed; and

- the serving process — the project turnover — is thoroughly accomplished.

Given all these, the final measure of success lies in how well the cuisine is eaten, i.e., how the project is integrated; the extent to which its funders are satisfied; and finally, how rapidly and how widespread the cuisine's reach becomes, i.e., the extent to which the project is replicated and improved upon.

Learning Teams and Mentoring

Emotional quotient competencies form part of the MDM's mentoring program. Four fundamental capabilities, namely — self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and social skill — are translated into lifelong learning skills through "learning teams." In the MDM Program, every student is assigned a learning team for the program's duration. The composition of these learning teams reflects a diversity of nationalities, age, education, and work experience.

Each learning team has a faculty mentor who guides the learning process. Learning teams serve as the venue for developing leadership acumen, conducting peer feedback and appraisal, and honing organizational skills.

A further tracking of their areas of interest and thrusts along two streams afford development managers the opportunity to enhance their careers and specialize.

The MDM Program covers functional and thematic areas of interest: development finance, local governance, public management, and environmental management. This results in complete development managers who can be practitioners, generalists or specialists, and who are afforded the necessary knowledge, skills and tools.

In the final analysis, the fate of 21st century development managers mentored in the AIM Center for Development Management can only be as good as the Institute's faith in their capacity to effect significant social change. "There is so much goodness in this world. There are so many men and women of goodwill. The role of development managers is simply to make sure they actually do good."

Center for Development Management

THE AIM's Center for Development Management (CDM) was established in 1991, after almost a decade of institutional involvement in development activities that was borne out of its conviction that development must go beyond the mere production of goods and services, and must extend to human development.

Human development focuses on people and posits that economic growth and higher consumption are not ends in themselves. Rather, they are but the means to achieve human development. Cognizant of the fact that Asia shelters the greatest number of the earth's poor, the CDM has placed public prosperity-building and asset and human capital formation at the core of its development philosophy.

We are committed to the growth of competently managed Asian countries, development organizations and public institutions that are able to provide a better quality of life for their constituents through the effective use and management of resources and the development of superior strategies. CDM's mission is to provide top-quality practitioner- and results-oriented degree and non-degree programs that produce development managers and visionary and transformational leaders of organizations and institutions.

The Center designs and implements innovative programs in development management training and education, conducts action research and initiates institution-building efforts. Its geographical priorities include Indochina (Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia), Burma, Indonesia, China, South Asia (India, Bhutan), and the Philippines.

The Master in Development Management

Over the years, the CDM has helped public and private organizations and individuals improve their capabilities and effectiveness in development management work. Our flagship program, the Master in Development Management (MDM) is an 11-month intensive, innovative and practitioner-oriented program designed to prepare development executives and practitioners to manage and lead public and civil society organizations, cooperatives and private non-profit firms, amidst economic and political transitions. Anchored in the Asian development context, the program curriculum helps them explore concepts, trends and processes, thus enabling them to think "outside the box."

The MDM Program exposes stu-

dents to real-life cases that allows tremendous opportunities to develop practitioner-oriented knowledge, tools, techniques, and skills in:

- environmental analysis
- organizational diagnosis
- strategy formulation and evaluation

- management of functional areas (finance, marketing, organizational development, operations and services management, economics and their interrelationships)

- program and project management

Through an area assessment and the submission of a Management Research Report (the equivalent of a graduate thesis), students integrate and apply practitioner-oriented skills as well as refine leadership, management and policy-making skills. Learning is further enriched through a strong mentoring program where the faculty mentor helps the students acquire, improve and further fine-tune their orientation and life-long learning skills.

Given our resolve to produce visionary and transformational development managers who create public value and maximize the sustainable public good — after 11 months of coursework, MDM students return to their respective organizations prepared, competent and motivated to effect substantive impacts on their organizations, communities and nations.

The PDM, PPDM and Customized Programs

The CDM also offers innovative short programs in development management and undertakes development research and institution-building activities for Asian organizations and institutions.

- Program for Development Managers (PDM). This is a four-week program for mid-level to senior managers who wish to broaden their perspectives of the environmental, social, economic, and political aspects of development at the operating and policy-making levels.

- Program and Project Development and Management (PPDM). A four-week program for mid-level managers, this is designed to develop the operational skills required in each phase of the project cycle, including the strategic skills needed to integrate and package projects into effective and sustainable programs.

- Customized Programs. CDM conducts customized training programs, strategic planning workshops and in-house training, all of which are designed and delivered based on an organization's specific training needs and objectives.

New Program Thrusts (January – June 2002)

In the first half of Year 2002, the CDM will launch its new programs:

- The Development Management Program for Church and Church-related Organizations will address the need for managerial skills in translating their vision and mission into operational strategy, programs and projects; and to effect greater relevance and performance effectiveness of church programs and projects in the parish or diocesan level. This will be delivered in partnership with the East Asia Pastoral Institute.

- In the light of the decentralization efforts in the Philippines and the ASEAN, the CDM will offer development management for local executives in the region. The Management Development Program for Provincial Executives will focus on the development of analytical skills in assessing provincial resources, opportunities and limitations; and of institutional capacities of local governments to mobilize and harness these to bring about equitable human development and public prosperity to their constituencies.

- The Management of Cities Program takes into consideration the need of Asian cities and their citizens for better governance, sustainable environment, effective provision of basic infrastructure and services, financial sustainability and effective constituencies' management. Cognizant of the reality that over half of the population of Asia will soon be living in the cities and urban areas, the CDM and the Asian Institute of Technology of Bangkok, Thailand will jointly develop this course.

- In relation to environmental concerns, especially, in the management of upland and coastal resources, the CDM will offer a regional course on the Management of Community-based Coastal and Upland Resources. Previously offered in Jakarta, Indonesia, the course will be expanded into a regional course.

- Responding to the expressed need of organizations implementing programs and projects for the marginalized and the disadvantaged, and which require policy advocacy, social marketing, program effectiveness, and financial sustainability, a program on the Management of Human Equity will be offered. This will be relevant to organizations wanting to mainstream current alternative programs in human rights, gender and development, indigenous communities, and other disadvantaged sectors.

The new MBM . . . (From page B11)

research, the convenience of self-learning, the opportunities for adult education, and the creativity and innovativeness of student-centered methodologies and materials. E-Learning has opened up new vistas for both educators and students, at once challenging and stupefying, with unlimited possibilities for new discoveries across fields and areas of interest.

What is the New Asian MBM?

The New Asian MBM builds on the AIM's 33-year old commitment and experience in the Asia-Pacific region. The AIM, through the MBM Program, has already established itself in the region as a leader in business management education. It continues to attract young, talented, ambitious, and hardworking men and women, whose interest in business and management keeps growing. The regional economy as a whole has radically changed in three decades, but the demand for managerial competence in this region has never been greater. A more intense focus on Asian business systems by the newly forged AIM Graduate School of Business Management will result in a better understanding of the business realities across the region. This in turn can only enhance the New Asian MBM graduate's capacity to utilize historical and contemporary knowledge about the Asia-Pacific region to manage its enterprises competently.

The astute integration of up-to-date knowledge, analytical tools and management skills in a distinctively Asian curriculum equips students to become CEOs for firms operating in Asia. The New Asian MBM's rigorous training, conceptual foundations and understanding of all-Asian business practices pre-destine our students to lead their organizations into the new millennium.

Humanizing Management

The New Asian MBM is not just about intelligence and knowledge and profits. To shoulder the onerous demands of leadership in Asian corporations, managers require a capacity and capability to influence people, manage interfaces with departments and across borders, and negotiate with individuals from all business sectors and industries.

Thus, the New Asian MBM develops the whole person, beyond the acquisition of professional skills. As such, considerable effort is directed towards the enhancement of the psyche of students. For example, the introduction of the Mentoring Program in the New Asian MBM provides a venue for social processes to help students become more effective learners and, eventually, more effective leader-managers. Our faculty mentors and coaches students towards their own effectiveness as management professionals and persons.

To enhance students' personal qualities there is greater emphasis on the development of their emotional maturity (EQ). Students are provided frameworks that will enable them to observe and analyze organizational settings more astutely as they take on heavier responsibilities and duties in the course of managing people on a day-to-day basis.

Cultivating the Entrepreneurial Spirit

The New Asian MBM goes beyond developing one's ability to synthesize functional skills and the humane dimensions of management. We develop and strengthen the entrepreneurial spirit of students.

For many individuals — the process of thinking up a business idea, creating a business plan, and finally starting a business — has been fraught with pitfalls. Within the 2-year New Asian MBM, students learn to develop a business idea in a structured fashion, drawing upon the expertise and experiences of professors and fellow-students. Ours is the invaluable role to expand the breadth of knowledge, as well as multiply and sharpen skills to instill that much-needed confidence to set forth and start their own businesses. The New Asian MBM opens their minds to the entrepreneurial way of thinking, doing and evaluating the myriad opportunities that present themselves during the learning process at AIM.

E-Learning Horizons

Already operating in the wired world, the New Asian MBM by force of circumstances and sheer necessity provides a thorough understanding of e-Business and the New Economy essentials. The growth of e-Businesses and the corresponding expansion of e-Commerce development management has far-reaching implications on the entire business community. In the New Asian MBM, elective courses on Information Technology apprise students of the impact of technology on the different functions of firms. With the introduction of knowledge management as part of AIM's e-Learning strategy, faculty can increasingly make use of state-of-the-art teaching technologies. As the AIM's primary New Economy program, the New Asian MBM courses are being digitized, not to mention digitally-enabled course administration.

The AIM Renaissance Manager

All these innovations occurring in the academic context of the New Asian MBM Program are changes purposefully designed to ensure relevant content and innovative course delivery. The Graduate School of Business Management will carry on its tradition of ushering best practices organizationally and inter-organizationally within the larger AIM structure. The strength of its core faculty team is buttressed by joint ventures with corporate partners, creative collaboration with regional academics, and an array of exchange programs with international universities. This ensures that the Graduate School of Business Management's programs remain close to the corporate and academic communities to gain ready access to corresponding expertise in specialized areas of interest to the managerial learning community.

This networking ability is the mark of distinction of the AIM as an institution, as it is the mark of distinction of its New Asian MBM graduates of the third millennium. We firmly believe that corporate leadership in Asia means being successful in Asian business, and in managing peoples across Asia. Teamworking ability, cultural understanding, a New Economy outlook, and the entrepreneurial spirit are the all-important skills we cultivate in the New Asian MBM.

The resulting AIM Renaissance Manager is therefore one who is steeped in Asian values and culture, knowledgeable about its business systems, skilled in the functional areas and the tools of the New Economy, competent and effective across sectors and borders. Above all, the AIM Renaissance Manager is a humanist for whom management education is the platform for self-development and the development of Asian peoples.

At the frontiers of innovation: new IT programs for executives

EXCELL anchors AIM's New Economy thrusts by offering a suite of six new programs in information technology management, electronic marketing, IT project management, e-governance, and IT-mediated government service delivery.

In cooperation with various technology firms, EXCELL will also offer e-learning for IT professionals through a blended four-way approach crafted by Prof. Tomas Lopez, Executive Managing Director of the AIM Knowledge Resource Center. This approach features: face-to-face faculty-led education, synchronous or collaborative software, self-paced courseware, and downloadable cases and teaching materials.

Here is a sampler of EXCELL's IT programs:

E-Marketing (November 26-30, 2001). This program provides an overview of electronic marketing, its first wave of success and a prognosis on the future. It will focus on exemplary and well-performing dot-com business models culled from best practices in the ASEAN region and from leading global players. Case studies and sharing from industry gurus will enhance the participants' preparedness to get involved in planning and implementing e-marketing solutions for their products and services.

E-Boot Camp (December 6-7, 2001). This is a two-day course with overnight sessions that will equip participants with practical skills and tools from technical specialists who will perform one-on-one coaching. Participants will emerge with a working knowledge of email, Word, Powerpoint, and spreadsheet applications. This course is dedicated to entrepreneurs and business owners who wish to avail of IT tools and techniques for growing their enterprises.

IT: A General manager's Perspective (January 21-25, 2002). Designed for general managers and senior executives who are non-IT professionals, this program provides an understanding of critical business issues, as well as opportunities and threats posed by the New Economy. They will gain a helicopter view of the IT industry and familiarize themselves with decision-making tools that could bring about greater speed, improved flexibility and lower operating costs. Appropriate technology will also be a focal point.

Foundations for the New Economy: IT Project Management (February 11-15, 2002). This is designed for middle managers who are non-IT professionals but whose corporate responsibilities impel them to collaborate with technology officers in evaluating or implementing IT projects that are critical to achieving operating efficiency and business growth. This program provides an overview of why a company does e-business and how technology can help increase market share, improve profitability and enhance user satisfaction.

E-Governance for Policy Makers (March 11-15, 2002). The course aims to assist policy-makers from emerging economies to develop a country strategy to ensure that they can optimize the advantages of technological innovation in information and communication. As a result, local and regional participants in the government sector can:

- a) craft a policy and regulatory framework conducive to the development of the IT and E-commerce sector;
- b) understand the interdependence of IT and E-commerce with other sectors such as publication, broadcasting, banking, insurance and consulting; and
- c) determine niches where a country can participate in the Information economy.

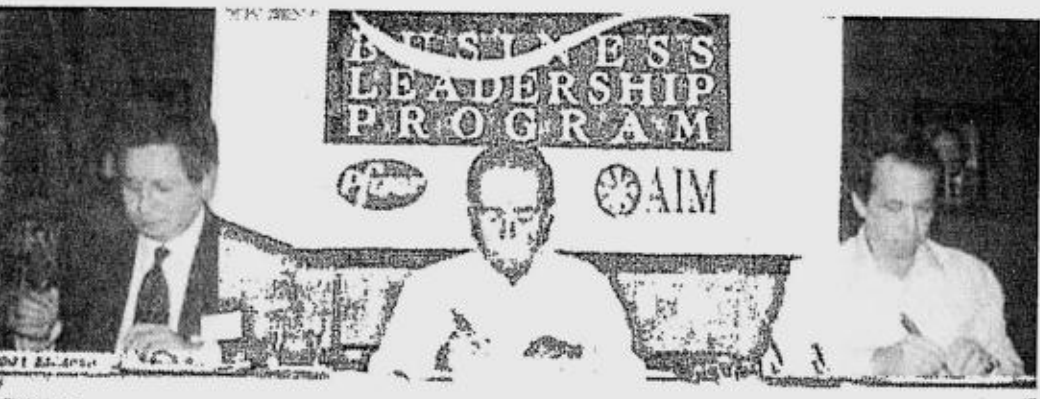
Technology for Government Service Delivery



AIM-THAPAR Institute (India) launches overseas EMBA program

(April 15-19, 2002). As information technology transforms businesses, it is also changing how government operates and how it provides services to the public. IT and data management technologies can disseminate a wealth of information about goods and services directly to the public, and it can facilitate the flow of information from government to the private sector.

The course aims to provide IT fluency to general managers and heads of government agencies. It will provide an overview on how technology can be used as an enabler for government service delivery and the rationale behind government agencies' need to use Information Technology.



AIM-PFIZER forges partnership for Business Leadership Program

On higher ground

AIM EXCELL'S contribution to the institutional renaissance is the launching of a series of programs on transformational learning processes. In consonance with its commitment to lifelong learning, it has taken on the mission to develop innovative learning processes for the formation of integrated organization leaders capable of elevating mind, heart and spirit.

In late November 2001, AIM EXCELL will offer the first run of a pioneering executive education program — **Unfolding Spirituality in the Workplace: Leading from Higher Ground (Nov. 25-27, 2001).**

In the aftermath of the World Trade Center twin towers disaster, many companies are experiencing a resurgence of spirituality in the workplace. In the local setting, employees and workers have taken initiatives in integrating spiritual activities into their workday lives—and enlightened employers have only been too willing to encourage such moves.

In today's turbulent times, people and organizations are focusing more intensely on the meaning of work. Successive change management interventions such as business process reengineering, total quality and continuous improvement programs and the like produce anxiety and create high expectations that are not always met.

More recently, people in organizations have realized that such efforts often fall short of their stated objectives, if these do not actively engage their hearts, minds and spirit. This reality is reflected in best-sellers such as Tom Chappel's *Soul of a Business*, James Autry's *Love and Profit: The Art of Caring Leadership* and Chogyam Trungpa's *Sacred Path of the Warrior*.

Spirituality in the Workplace Program is targeted towards CEOs, enterprise owners and other business leaders. Other related executive programs being lined up by AIM-EXCELL include:

Self-Mastery: Integrating the Organizational and Personal Self. An advanced and intensely personal growth experience, this program explores concepts and ways of living that will enable participants to be more intentional, effective and joyful in choosing how to lead their lives. Several learning events shall comprise this self-mastery program including, among others, Enneagram in Life and Work, Stress Management, and the Sacred Path of the Warrior.

Whole-Brain Learning: Sharpening Emotional Intelligence. Participants will learn the principles and practice of EQ components such as self-awareness, self-regulation and self-management, social awareness and social skills.

Value-Added Learning: The Art and Science of Mentoring and Coaching. This workshop seeks to develop specific executive skills in nurturing top-notch talent. This program supports the broadly accepted management maxim that behind every successful executive is a teacher, a coach, mentor or counselor who nurtured the manager's aspirations and lowered the threshold of resistance to growth.

Managing Adult Learning: Alternative Learning Methodologies. Corporate trainers have the responsibility of shaping business leaders who are already adult learners. Such learners are motivated, not taught, to seek new knowledge and tap into their reservoir of creative talents and insights. They learn best from experience. While the design of this program is guided, in part, by participant-identified goals, the program uses the inductive method in developing process-specific skills and behaviors appropriate to the needs of adult learners.

The program for strategic . . . (From page B11)

viewpoint. This development of general leadership and management skills, attitudes and perspectives is the essence of the MM Program.

Following the "Star Framework" for Leader-Managers, our three Program Modules develop major skills areas:

- First Module: Analysis, Decision Making and Trailblazing
- Second Module: Strategizing and Synthesizing
- Third Module: Visioning, Implementing, Leading, and Mentoring

In the MM Program, the Case Method remains the most effective learning mode for managerial skills development. This requires active involvement, serious preparation, and willingness to voice and test one's ideas in the classroom. The faculty is constantly on the look-out for evidence that learning and development are taking place.

Students are assigned Learning Teams in order to maximize preparation time and effort. We strongly urge our students to use their Teams to make their appreciation and learning of a case much richer. Each Learning Team has a Mentor, whose role is to provide feedback and to process observation, advice and guidance.

The MM Faculty believes in an action-learning philosophy: wisdom cannot be told — it must be experienced. The whole Program is designed to give a variety of learning experiences: Case Discussion, Written Analysis of Cases (WAC), Teambuilding, the Industry Project, Management Games, the Walkabouts, the Management Research Report (MRR), Field Trips, and other experiential activities.

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

E X E C U T I V E

MBA

of three

You
your Company
and AIM

You don't have to quit work. You need not disrupt your career. Yet you earn a world-class Executive MBA with your Company's support.

The AIM Executive MBA is a modular 18-month program. And it's a three-way partnership of participant, Company, and AIM.

Here's how it works: Your Company sponsors you to the program. You attend regular classes for one week only every month. In between, you continue your work and act as a consultant to your Company on a specific business problem -- and eventually complete a thesis on your Company.

In effect, the AIM Executive MBA allows you to apply immediately what you've learned. And consequently, your sponsor Company benefits from your new capabilities to implement strategic change.

"I would recommend sending our other employees to the EMBA program because I believe it will provide our company the competitive advantage."

Victor C. Risma, Jr., President, Meralco Energy, Inc. on George Campos, EMBA-Lopez, Manager Meralco Energy, Inc.

"The AIM faculty advisers are always on the lookout for what the students are capable of. They stretch you, but guide you to maximize your potential."

Gemma Roque, EMBA-Lopez (with Distinction) Vice-President, First Philippine Industrial Park

"The EMBA was the venue of my transformation from a manager to a visionary leader, from a marketing specialist to a division generalist, from a businessman to an entrepreneur, from an individual player to a team player."

Caloy Realuyo, EMBA Manila 1, Director, Primary Health Care Division, Sanofi-Synthelabo

AIM Executive MBA is #1 in Asia, based on the Asiaweek Survey 2000 of leading MBA programs in the region.

ENROLLMENT IS ONGOING FOR THE FOURTH BATCH OF MANILA CLASS. CLASSES START APRIL 2002.

Contact: Ms. Carmela Chupungco or Ms. Grace Sablaya
Trunkline: 892-4011 Ext: 339, 263 • E-mail: excell@dataserve.aim.edu.ph
Website: <http://www.aim.edu.ph> • Tel/Fax: 892-3340/892-3260

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Position: _____

Tel. No.: _____ Fax No.: _____ E-mail: _____

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION and LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER (EXCELL)

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID		
AIM Admissions Test Schedule November 10, 2001 January 12, 2002 February 16, 2002 March 9, 2002 March 23, 2002 April 27, 2002	Degree Program Schedule Pre-MBA: May 27, 2002 – July 5, 2002 Pre-MM/MDM: April 15, 2002 – May 24, 2002 MBM: July 15, 2002 – May 2004 MM / MDM: June 3, 2002 – May 2003	Scholarships & Loan Information • AIM Scholarships available for candidates in the Master in
Business Management Program cover tuition and fees. • Asian Development Bank Scholarships (funded by the Government of Japan) cover tuition fees, books and instructional materials allowance, monthly subsistence and housing allowance, medical insurance, and travel expenses. For scholars engaged in research, special grants are provided to support field work and thesis preparation. In special circumstances, computer literacy, preparatory language, and other similar courses may be covered under the scholarship. • SSS Loan Criteria Qualifications: Admission into	AIM degree programs: SSS membership in good standing; presentation of two (2) sureties; equity payment in cash • Ayala Foundation, Inc. – AIM Educational Loan Program Qualified students can use loan proceeds to cover Living Allowance for Books, Meals, Transportation, Board & Lodging, Monthly Stipend. For further inquiries, please contact: The ADMISSIONS OFFICE, Asian Institute of Management; 123 Paseo de Roxas, 1260 Makati City; tel: 8924011-25, fax: 8179240, e-mail: aimnet@aim.edu.ph . Visit our Website: www.aim.edu.ph	

Millennium thrusts: mediating human development

Health Care Management Program

Asians are living longer and enjoying a better quality of life as a result of advances in medical technology and enhanced access to health care services. Governments are devoting more resources to health care while the private sector is heavily investing in health care service delivery infrastructure and health care financing. Delivery of health care services presents new challenges for professional managers in the field.

The Health Care Management Program (HCMP) is for senior managers who must confront the challenges faced by health care organizations to deliver efficient and effective health care services. The HCMP modules are intended to deal with the specific needs of senior managers in key areas of health service delivery.

Course Modules:

1. Strategic Management in Health Care (March, 2002)

The Strategic Management in Health Care Course (SMHC), the flagship module of the program, is intended for top health care managers who are involved in planning, policy formulation, and decision making. The course provides conceptual frameworks to help them formulate and implement organizational strategy for long-term viability of their health care organizations. Tools and frameworks will be introduced to

facilitate a critical assessment of trends and factors that influence health care service demand and behavior of the health care market players. The course also focuses on the special character of health care organizations where medical practitioners play key roles as both care giver and managers.

2. Health Care Financial Management (April, 2002)

The course provides an overview of the healthcare financing system and examines the interplay between the government's financing programs and the roles and incentives for private sector health insurance and health care institutions. The course will also deal with financial management issues that include management of working capital and investment decision models, long term capital structure. Health care executives will learn how to use cost-benefit analysis, feasibility assessment tools and investment decision models to help them select the most efficient financing structure for their health care projects.

3. Health Care Services Social Marketing (May, 2002)

Effective health care intervention requires changing deeply entrenched health care behavior and practices. In health care, individual choices are classified into promotive, preventive and prescriptive behavior. Ultimately, individuals make choices as to whether to adopt a healthy lifestyle of eating a

well-balanced diet to prevent heart disease, practice safe sex to avoid HIV, or take prescription drugs appropriately to enjoy their intended impact. Social marketing addresses the need of health care managers to better understand the health care market behavior and dynamics and explore strategies for effective intervention. This course is for key managers in government, non-government organizations, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies who are involved in promoting effective health care intervention programs.

4. Health Services Delivery Management (May, 2002)

This course aims to provide administrators and entrepreneurs of health care institutions a framework and a set of critical skills in designing, organizing, and managing their organizations to consistently deliver outstanding services cost-effectively. It will train them how to develop a customer-oriented culture through total quality management and achieve world class service standards through benchmarking and business process reengineering.

5. Health Policy Course (April, 2002)

This course is for senior managers in the ministry of health and local government units who are involved in the formulation of policies that influence the allocation of the country's resources for health care services. Key managers

of non-government organizations who advocate health policies to the government are also invited to this course.

Environmental Governance (November 2001)

The converging interests in environmental management of government, business and civil society has put the AIM in a unique position to facilitate partnerships and capacity-building among these sectors. Given our expertise in business and development management education and our extensive experience in spearheading collaborative efforts among stakeholders, we are launching the following initiatives by November 2001: environment policy action research; strategic environment management training; training on skills and tools to build environmentally sustainable business; environment entrepreneurship action research.

In combination, these components are envisioned to eventually evolve into the Master in Environment Governance Program which will serve as a common vehicle for potential collaborators from government, business and civil society to effect improvements in environmental performance of an area.

Education Management (April-May 2002)

The positioning of AIM as the "school for schools" taps into our abil-

ity to leverage on institutional resources built up over decades of providing management education to the corporate world, to the development community and to entrepreneurs.

Scheduled for April and May 2002, our outreach to managers of the learning process addresses a widely perceived and urgent need to simultaneously improve the quality of education at top and bottom levels of academe for optimum results. School owners, deans, principals, and administrators will be exposed to best practices in education management leading to the operationalization of well-run school systems. To be more effective at classroom levels, teachers will be introduced to interactive learning methodologies for which AIM has been known: the case method, mentoring, coaching and facilitating, and IT-mediated learning.

Mastery of learning dynamics by both school and classroom managers will involve the adoption of a mentor's eye with the end in view of enhancing every teachable moment experienced by educators and students alike. The Program for Education Managers will initially utilize the Philippines as a social laboratory for new learning modalities drawn from regional and international materials on education and will eventually take on a fuller Asian dimension in both content and delivery.

*Program details to be announced.

Managing the Arts (October 15-27, 2001)

Artists are generally known to shy away from managerial and administrative functions which are quite alien to the what they do best - creating art. How to make formal management an interesting course to a special breed of people who need to be managers not by choice but by institutional imperative is the biggest challenge in establishing a special program to demystify management for the artistic community. We identified the areas of creative tensions within and outside the whole arts organization. These set our directional objectives for our whole course in terms of skills, knowledge and attitudes: adopt AIM's whole brain and entrepreneurial approach of critical, creative and systematic thinking; bridge the tension between strategic business goals and the artistic mission; enhance the marketing, operations, organizational and financial skills of the arts practitioner; and develop the full leadership potentials of the transformational arts manager.

The Managing the Arts Program is anchored on Asian values and the best management models and practices of both East and West. Together with Asian case studies, we incorporate the more advanced models, innovations and paradigm shifts in various arts organizations in Europe and the United States so that our students can develop a wider perspective in this field of specialization.

The rebirth of master entrepreneurs



CELSONOEL D. ABAN

SERVNET
Cellular Phones, Phone Cards
and Accessories

If there is one thing that opened my mind—it is knowing your numbers. I run a small company with 9 stores in the Calabarzon area. I now use a 6-month forecast for each store to control our cost, rationalize our company's product offerings, and focus our resources. All the accounting and financial analyses previously delegated to my wife have now become my own vital tools. We'll never be 100% prepared for the impact of the global economic uncertainties. But using all the vital tools, creativity, discipline, and ingenuity now instilled in me, I am convinced that we can sustain what we have accomplished. I am confident that our profits will still rise and our employees, investors and customers will be more satisfied. They may be contacted at 371-6477 / 411-2844.

VICENT R. LEYSON
TOUCHCOM PHILIPPINES, INC. /
CELLPHONES UNLIMITED
Cellular Phone Distribution

The AIM-ME program played a very significant role in the growth of our business. Personally, it has enhanced my skills in management, decision making, financial analysis, and other areas of business operations. We learned how to run our businesses professionally, how to construct systems and procedures, and develop strategies that helped us to exploit opportunities and conquer our weaknesses. Today, our business has 2 divisions: Cellphones Unlimited handles retail sales and Touchcom Philippines, Inc. handles the distribution network. We currently have a presence in Cebu and the Greater Manila Area and cater to a nationwide market. Please call 850-1524 for more information.

CEFERINO V. ARQUIZA
MICROCONTROL DESIGN
TECHNOLOGY
Design and Manufacture of Automated Industrial
Machines and Computerized Control Systems

The ME Program has been instrumental in transforming Microcontrol Design Technology from an "ego trip" into a world-class supplier of innovative automated equipment and systems for the semiconductor industry in the Philippines and overseas. At AIM, I acquired the critical skills that are helping me now to transform MDT from a business that earns just enough to support my family, into one that hopefully can spur the growth of a new industry in the Philippines—the capital equipment industry. They may be contacted at 521-5507 / 5364418.

LEO O. ANG
METRO INDUSTRIES, INC.
Importation and Distribution of Chemicals

The ME Program provided us new and creative ways to approach an otherwise simple entrepreneurial activity such as commodities (chemical) trading which always competes on price. Emphasis on its core concepts—Quality, Delivery and Productivity (QDP)—enabled us to analyze our customer needs better and employ various measures to differentiate our standardized products. By providing unique and value-added services to our customers, such as inventory management and outsourcing of some of their processes, we are able to stand out against our multinational competitors. Thus, we have elevated and transformed our basic competitive advantage beyond pricing. They may be contacted at 732-9438.

CESAR "Chet" ESPINO

MARATHON
PUBLISHING COMPANY
Publisher of Baby Magazine, Weddings,
Shopwise Magazine

It started as a mission. Baby Magazine sought to bring together a community of young parents to find answers to the most pressing questions about Filipino babies. The ME Program influenced our business side. We were able to identify our main source of strength—our people; and maintain our endurance through sound financial stewardship and our stamina through proper cashflow management. This was coupled with proper pacing in our expansion, and the right nutrition through research and continuous improvement. Best of all, we recognized why we must maintain a balance in everything that we do: the importance of rest in any human activity. They may be contacted at 843-3930.

ENRIQUE O. CAEG
CYBERLAUNDRY
Laundry and business center services

The ME course has helped me craft a solid direction and strategy for the manageable growth of my business. The modules for self-mastery and enterprise development enhanced my abilities as an entrepreneur. CyberLaundry is a multi-use Community Service Center that offers laundry and business center services. It was recently accepted by the International Fabricare Institute of America as an International Member. For Franchise applicants, please call 867-4232 or Fax your letter of intent to Eric Caeg at 844-7839. Visit our website at www.cyberlaundry.com.ph for more information.

MARINELA TRINIDAD
CRAVINGS
Food Service/Culinary School

The ME program has taught me that there is no limit to what one can achieve. I developed grand visions for my company. Class exercises helped me rethink and re-evaluate what I have been doing, and determine its relevance to my vision. It taught me how to stay focused on the essentials of the business. I acquired skills in marketing, finance, operations, and human resource development and now appreciate Product Line Analysis, Quality, Delivery, Productivity, and Market Research. My company experienced greater productivity and professionalism. Please call 426-1338 for more information.

STEPHENIE "Mei" HAO
QUADRO
Unbranded, Generic ready-to-wear clothes

We are a distributor of unbranded, generic ready-to-wear clothes which was growing steadily despite intense competition. Not satisfied with the returns on a heavy investment in marketing, I decided to join AIM's ME program. Working closely with my Guru, I formulated my vision and set clearly defined objectives and targets; defined and implemented practical strategies that will set me apart from the rest. I learned concepts like brand equity management and realized the value of creating and managing brand names; total quality management, the QDP framework, and even financial strategies for the sustainable growth of my enterprise. With a fresh dose of concepts and a framework, plus actionable strategies and programs, I will pursue with renewed vigor the myriad opportunities for my company. Quadro casual wear is available at all leading department stores. They may be contacted at 242-3808 / 241-7653.

MA. CARMENCITA

L. CASTAÑEDA
DIGITAL DEVELOPERS, INC.
IT and Other Business Solutions Services

Our company started out as a cost center within our present company providing IT and other business solutions services. While in the ME Program, I realized the opportunity to provide these services not only to our parent company and its affiliates, but also to SMEs. I was guided to develop my 5-year business plan and taught the value of having a vision. I spun-off my group, defined targets and developed concrete strategies to reach them. The Program also armed us with tools to understand my enterprise better. I learned the value of objectivity and professionalizing my organization and set aside "oido" and gut-feel that were not substantiated with appropriate thought processes and a corresponding "number-crunching" exercise. They may be contacted at 687-1142 to 43 or at their e-mail address: digiteldev@imail.com.

ARTURO P. JARLEGA, SR.
CASA REAL MONTESSORI, INC.
Educational Institutions

After the ME Program, our school proceeded with a P333 million expansion and we formed a new corporation to deal in real estate development. Casa Real Montessori, Inc. is the pioneer and industry leader in the Montessori System of education south of Metro Manila. These are two existing schools, one in Bacoor and another in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Both offer Nursery-Kinder-Preparatory classes, all the way to the Elementary and High School levels. A new branch will be opened starting next school year 2002-2003 at Parkplace Village, Imus, Cavite.

They may be contacted at (046) 416-0564 / 417-0178.

EMERITO L. ROJAS
NET SURFERS CLUB, INC.
Services: Full Internet Access, Website Design and
Development, Domain Registration, ISP Franchising
Products: Prepaid Internet Cards, All Free CD Pack,
Kidsafe Internet Access, ClubMed Internet Access

Net Surfers Club, a relatively young company, benefited from the insights and learnings gained from the ME course. Competitiveness in the marketplace has been re-evaluated and enhanced in terms of pricing, packaging, co-branding, market segmentation, and adaptability to consumer habit changes. More commonly known as NSCLUB.NET, our company has introduced several niche-market prepaid cards such as the KIDSAFE Internet access targeting the pre-adult users, the Club Med Internet access designed for medical practitioners, and the AllFree CD Pack which addresses the fight against pirated softwares. They may be contacted at 951-2345 / 951-5555.

MA CRISTINA L. TORRES
ARLEE'S BREAD HOUSE, INC.
Bread and Pastries

Right from the start and until I finished the ME Program, my life has been blessed with a lot of insights... Ad infinitum. The course made me realize what is important for me to learn; what knowledge I will be able to share, and what valuable experiences I will narrate to help others. My childhood dream of being a teacher has led to the path of entrepreneurship—a path of being a leader in the workplace. I have found my place in Arlees—a family enterprise borne out of a desire to feed a multitude of people. This was my ancestors' dream, and I relish the great honor of fulfilling this vision by being its scribe and mentor. They can be contacted at 871-1912.

SARA A. PASRICHA
RED PEN PUBLISHING
Desktop Publishing

Shall I admit that as Publisher and CEO, I am now able to compute for working capital requirements in thirty seconds? That strategy now follows a sound, rock-solid 5-year business plan? To me "VMOKRAPI" are not just letters out of the alphabet because of the ME's first eighteen days and the ensuing eighteen months. This has spelled the difference in my business which now has its Vision, Mission, Objectives, Key Result Areas and Performance Indicators. They may be contacted at 525-7161 / 523-4154.

DON TIMOTHY I. BUHAIR
REX BOOK STORE INC.
Publisher-Text Book

As a member of the third generation of textbook publishers, I witnessed the phenomenal rise of Rex Book Store, Inc. Now on its 52nd year this made me quite confident that we knew our markets and clientele well. Or so I thought. Experiencing the ME program jolted me to face reality. It contributed to our own Renaissance. I saw the need for a proactive stance to boost our capacities, progress by leaps and bounds, and maintain our leadership by staying ahead of the competition. I became an eager spirit willing to go through the process of retrospection, introspection and projection. I am now a master of my company's identity who believes that RBSP will thrive. ME helped me re-think the programs to make them relevant, reconfigure the organization to adapt to changes, and effectively implement to maintain our stature in textbook publishing. For more information, please call 743-7690.

LOLITA C. TIU
JONAS FOODS CORPORATION
The Original Pares—Food Service

My husband and I have been in business for 22 years. Though successful, our business history is also characterized by trials and errors. In retrospect, my vision lacked focus and organization. Decisions and moves were largely based on gut feel and oftentimes reactive. The ME Program enlightened me on the need for a clear and focused vision supported by appropriate research and financial analysis. It confirmed many of the things I have learned on my own. But now, it shall be bolstered by my newfound skills with quantitative marketing and financial tools. Over the years, my husband-business partner and I have been making business decisions together but not without disagreements! Since AIM, he has surprisingly lent a very receptive ear to my business opinions and projects. Our business is thriving and, to our personal relations too! They may be contacted at 712-6261 or 650.

MARLENE L. MARISTELA
PIEDRAS NEGRAS CONSTRUCTION
& DEVELOPMENT CORP.
Construction

The decision to go back to school and be retrained for another career was not an easy after being a hotel executive for 20 years. The self-mastery course synthesized both my old and new knowledge and insights, and converted them into practical ideas and application. The situational and environmental mastery courses equipped me with the proper tools to better handle my various responsibilities, improve our operating efficiencies and manage our costs. As the demands of our work increase, we learn not to lose focus of our vision and mission, and to think more creatively, communicate more clearly, respond to our customer more quickly, undertake more risk, and decide properly. They may be contacted at 436-1762 / 921-4318.

The Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE)

SINCE it was established in 1996, the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship has endeavored to be acclaimed as a center that brought the region into global leadership position. Our goal is to create value and bring organizations to a higher level of productivity, profitability and professionalism.

Launched with a four-fold strategy: Research, Training and Education, Networking, and Outreach—ACE pioneers projects and programs characterized by creativity and innovation. Drawing from our essential research, critical field surveys, premium case studies, customized seminars and workshops, ACE develops business, corporate, social, and development entrepreneurs and trains them in opportunity-seeking, innovative management and efficient operations, and facilitates the net-

working between and among entrepreneurs and enterprise development institutions.

The ACE leadership and creativity program for small and medium-scale entrepreneurs includes the following:

- Master in Entrepreneurship (ME)
- Master in Entrepreneurship for Social and Development Entrepreneurs (MESoDev)
- Certificate courses: Venture in Entrepreneurship (VIE), Corporate and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL), Social and Microentrepreneurship Program (SoMe), Continuing Education for Entrepreneurs (CEE)

Given the growing interest in ACE programs, whose participants now total 800 since founding, our flagship ME Program's Batch 5 and the MESoDev are scheduled for opening in early January 2002.

The AIM renaissance (From page B11)

course has no exams nor quizzes. Rather, the entrepreneur comes in only for 18 days at the beginning of the Program, and subsequently, for four days a month in the next 18 months.

In between sessions, entrepreneur-students apply the learnings from the classroom in his or her real-life enterprise. We evaluate the student, not on the basis of class work, but on the basis of what happens to him or her as a person and what happens to his or her enterprise. Did it become more productive? More profitable? More professional?

An unusual feature of the course is the Guru System which is borrowed from the Indian educational practice of mentorship and the very Zen Buddhist master-apprentice relationship. The guru or mentor advises a small class of entrepreneurs aided by a drillmaster who provides technical assistance to the students at odd hours of the day and during off-days of the week. The "guruing" process allows us to monitor the progress of both

enterprise and entrepreneur.

Another innovation of the course is the focus on Self-Mastery and Whole-Brain Thinking. In the latter, we emphasize the multi-faceted intelligences of man:

- emotional intelligence (both interpersonal and intrapersonal);
 - creativity and intuition;
 - traditional left-brain activities of analytical, logical and sequential thinking lodged in the linguistic and numerical intelligences.
- On the other hand, Self-Mastery dwells on 7 learning skills:
- Learning to Think (critically, creatively and systematically)
 - Learning to Feel (compassion and caring),
 - Learning to Intuit (knowing without using the five senses)
 - Learning to Be (a person with a purposive role in society)
 - Learning to Do (which is learning how to evaluate, experience and experiment)

- Learning to Communicate (in various modes to different stakeholders)
- Learning to Lead (the self and others)

The Asian Center for Entrepreneurship has launched the proverbial thousand ships with its myriad offerings, including a second program—the Master in Social and Development Entrepreneurship. The ACE is the third AIM, it is the AIM which focuses on the person, the entrepreneurial leader in his/her various facets of self and enterprise development. It is also the AIM of the East, having grounded the entire course an Asian entrepreneurship, Asian learning methodologies and Asian family values.

AIM for the New Economy

This month of October in the year 2001, we are proclaiming a rebirth—the unique Renaissance of the AIM as an institution—as we embark on the fourth and fifth AIMS in one fell swoop. The fourth AIM is the AIM of the West, the AIM

THE AIM/B15

The AIM renaissance (From page B14)

of the New Economy, the world of advanced technology, information systems and cyber management.

We are crossing the digital divide and translating our learning materials into cyber format. Beyond that, we are launching an E-strategy for each of our four schools—the Graduate School of Business Management (GSBM), the Center for Development Management (CDM), the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE), and the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL).

• The GSBM is using IT to enhance traditional learning approaches. It will offer a whole range of E-commerce subjects and electives.

• The CDM is entering into partnership arrangements to broadcast development courses via the internet. Already, there are discussions with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to push the frontiers of the Development Knowledge Community.

• The ACE is converting the whole Master in Entrepreneurship course into an interactive electronic workbook which can serve as the backbone for both distance learning and guru advisory sessions. Plans are afoot for Technopreneurship courses in partnership with Hatch Asia and other private corporations steeped in the New Economy.

• The Executive Education for Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL) is offering, for the first time this school year, at least five IT-based certificate courses.

In no uncertain terms, the AIM has embraced E-Learning in each and every program, from the first AIM of Big Business to the AIM of the Renaissance.

AIM for the Humanities, Humanism and Human Development

Simultaneously, we are unraveling the fifth AIM, the AIM of the four crosswinds, the AIM which ventures into the Humanities, Humanism and Human Development. This month, we are launching the program on Managing the Arts which fuses inspiration from the muses and graces of the Arts and the discipline of management and mission-centered leadership. Managing the Arts is our first attempt to explore the fascinating world of the Renaissance Person and to unleash the human genius on several fronts. Managing the Arts is the first crosswind. It is the South-Eastern crosswind that blends the richness of Eastern arts and cul-

ture and our very own Asian way of mentoring and learning with the values, people-orientation and development thrust of the South.

The Renaissance of AIM will take flight as we venture into the three other crosswinds. The North-Eastern crosswind is Education Management where we will merge the highly-effective and highly interactive learning methodologies that we learned from the North with the Eastern guru system and its intuitive, reflective modes of knowing. We will be offering courses for school administrators as well as for teachers so that we may uplift the quality of education in Asia and spread the reach of AIM to the farthest corners of the hemisphere.

The South-Western crosswind is Healthcare Management. Here, we are marrying the fast-paced advances in healthcare technologies from the West with the community-based caring systems of the South. We will address the healthcare needs of the teeming billions of Asia who are poor, undernourished and undercared for.

The North-Western crosswind is Environmental Governance. The greening of the Earth is a global issue long spearheaded by the North, precipitated largely by their own rapacious exploitation of Mother Nature as they frenziedly pursued economic progress. To address the rapid deterioration of global natural resources and prevent environmental degradation,

we need advanced Western technologies that will allow us to feed the world sustainably without destroying the habitat of future generations.

The AIM Renaissance Spirit of the 21st Century

The combined strengths of the North, South, East and West winds and the power of the four crosswinds give us the eight winds of the AIM Renaissance. Together, they bring AIM to the highest peaks and desert valleys of management education in Asia to carry our new message:

AIM is an Institute totally dedicated to the full emancipation of the human mind, the human heart and the human spirit as we elevate management education to the zenith of all human aspirations. And that we, like Michelangelo's Adam, can likewise touch but one finger of God and experience what is supremely divine in the human soul.

In the AIM Renaissance, we will rediscover our own antiquities, those that we discovered from the North, the South and the East. But, in seeking the truth and challenging long-held beliefs—we will embrace the daunting call for higher technology from the West while responding to the gentler, kinder breezes of the four crosswinds of the Humanities, Humanism and total Human Development—as we carry on our commitment to service the people and the communities of Asia.

ACE SCHEDULE

Corporate Entrepreneurship Course for Top Management (Manila)	Nov.12-14, '01
Building the Entrepreneurial Organization (Cebu)	Dec. 12-13, '01
Quality, Delivery & Productivity for SMEs (QDP - Davao)	Dec. 15-16, '01
Entrepreneurial Leadership for Business Advantage (ELBA - Manila)	Feb.18-Mar.1, '02
Market Positioning and Segmentation for SMEs (Mia)	Mar.11-12, '02
QDP (Manila)	Mar.13-14, '02
Finance for SMEs	Mar.18,19-20, '02
Franchising	Apr. 22, 23, 24-25
Corporate Entrepreneurship Course for Top Management (Baguio)	May 20-24, '02
Venture Into Entrepreneurship (VIE)	May 6 - Oct. 10, '02

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• General Affairs Department:	2 personnel
• Customer Service Department:	2 personnel
• Translation/Interpretation Department:	2 personnel
• Public Relations Department:	2 personnel
• Security Guards for Executives:	10 personnel (Male)
• Drivers for Executives:	5 personnel (Male)

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• Executive Vice President	₱ 220,000. /mo
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• Assistant Manager (or sub-section chief)	₱ 35,000. /mo
• Senior Clerk (or chief clerk)	₱ 20,000. /mo
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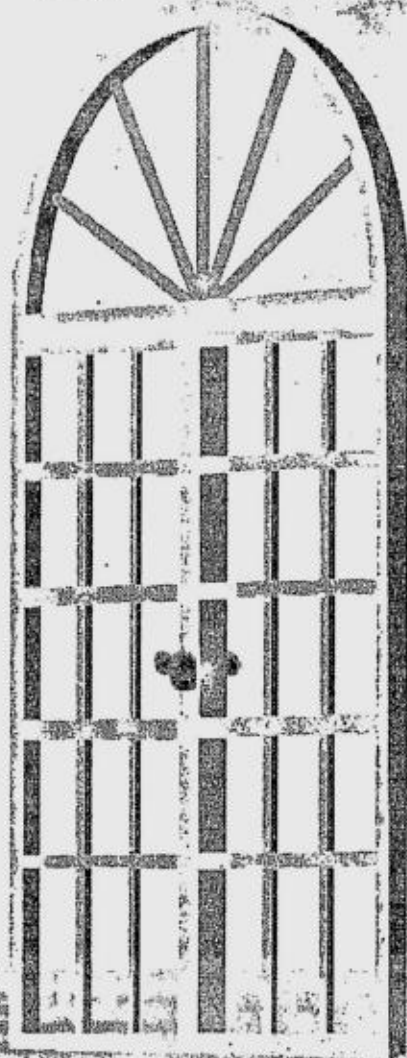
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5. Provide assistance, as much as possible, for the weak and powerless victims of wrong national policies.

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4. Advertising 4 personnel
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7. Video Production 2 personnel
In charge of movie and commercial production
8. Public Relations 2 personnel
In charge of public relations activities

9. Merger & Acquisition 5 personnel
In charge of merger and acquisition activities
10. Environmental Affairs 2 personnel
In charge of environmental protection activities
11. Management Information 2 personnel
In charge of planning computer applications and control of management information
12. General Affairs 4 personnel
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13. Travel Arrangements 5 personnel
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His loving wife ZENaida ESPAÑO; children ZARAH FRANCES, RAINIER CHRISTOPHER and ZAIRY ANN; father ROMAN; brothers REYNALDO (†), ROMAN JR., ROMULO, RICARDO, ROLANDO and ROBERT; brother-in-law MODESTO (†); and sisters-in-law CORA E. VILLANUEVA, THELMA, EUGENIA, MILA, CRISTINA, MARITRESS; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
 Interment will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2001, 12:00 noon at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque right after the 8:00 AM Requiem Mass at the La Funeraria Paz.

COL. RODRIGO G.
TECSON PC, GSC (RET.)

04 February 1918 — 07 October 2001
 Peacefully joined our Creator
 at the age of 83.

He is survived by his wife Lucilla; daughter Precilla; sons Napoleon, Arsenio and Lewis; his grandchildren Mike, Chinky, Adrian, Chinggay, JP, Chin-Chin, Abel, Lance, Liam and Lucas.

Interment will be on 11 October 2001
 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at
 San Vicente Chapel, San Vicente,
 San Miguel, Bulacan.

The body currently lies in state
 at Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary,
 Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City



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ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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 Telefax No. 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
 bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **UPGRADE OF THREE (3) F-27 AIRCRAFTS** of the Philippine Air Force with an approved budget of **One Hundred Fifty-Three Million Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand Pesos (Php 153,216,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, or otherwise produce the F-27 aircraft shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **October 9, 2001** until **October 23, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Department, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 23, 2001** at 2:00 PM (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bidders shall be allowed to inspect the F-27 Aircrafts and PAF facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **November 13, 2001** at 9:00 AM (local time) after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO M. CAMILING, JR.**
 Lieutenant General, AFP
 Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 9, 2001)



Office of the President
 Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
 Clark Special Economic Zone

INVITATION TO BID

Clark Development Corporation invites interested Security Agencies to pre-qualify and bid for **Two Hundred (200) Security Guards**.

Bid documents, Terms of References (TOR) may be secured from PBAC Chairman's Office, Admin. Operations Group, Building 2125, E. Quirino Street, CSEZ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **09-12 October 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)**. Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted to PBAC Chairman's Office not later than **11:00 a.m., 25-26 October 2001**.

Only pre-qualified security agencies shall be eligible to submit bid proposals. Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by PBAC not later than **2:00 p.m., 04 December 2001** and be opened immediately thereafter.

Clark Development Corporation hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **MR. DOUGLAS B. YBALLE**
 Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2001)



Republic of the Philippines
BONDOP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
 Project Management Office
 Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon

The BDP-PMO wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the materials needed below:

- 1 lot - supplies and materials for SIPA DOS Irrigation Project at Padre Burgos, Quezon
- 1 lot - supplies and materials for Farm to Marker Road at Brgy. Suha, Catanauan, Quezon

Pre-qualification forms, complete details and particulars of the above-mentioned can be obtained from BDP-PMO Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P500.00** from **10 to 12 October 2001**.

Accomplished pre-qualification statement and annexes should be received by BDP Lucena Liaison Office or Project Management Office, Catanauan, Quezon on or before **18 October 2001**.

Only qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding conference which will be held on **29 October 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at BDP-PMO, Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon.

BDP-PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept such bids most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ALLEN O. MOLEN**
 PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)



Republic of the Philippines
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND RE-BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

- 14 units of Computers Pentium 4
- 1 unit of Notebook Computer Pentium 4

Accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of **P100.00** to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Dept. North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accredited qualification documents shall not be later than **5:00 p.m., October 15, 2001**. Accredited/pre-qualified bidders/suppliers need not apply.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of **P500.00** which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Accreditation.

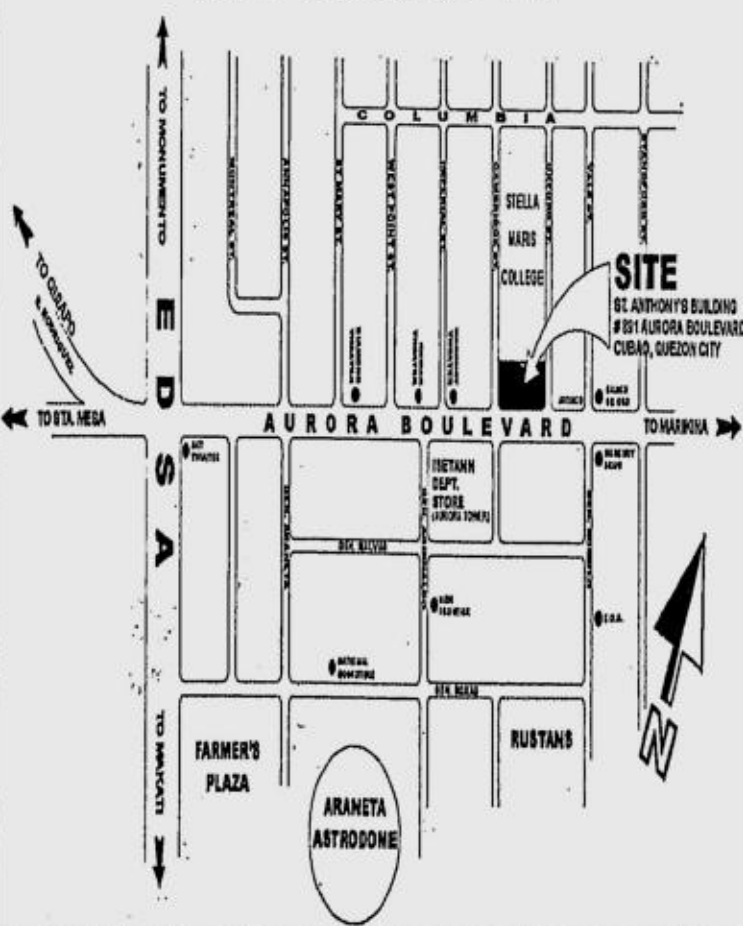
The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIO C. MIRANDA**
 Acting General Manager
 Metrostar Express, and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Oct. 8, 7 & 8, 2001)

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 Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City
 Tele/Fax Nos. 444-79-94/444-83-29
 PO Box 1158
 E-Mail: charm@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture (DA) as the Implementing Agency of the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) Project invites duly authorized distributors and suppliers of heavy equipment who have been in the business for the last five (5) years to participate in the public bidding for the supply and acquisition of the following:

- **Three (3) units Grader**
 Equipped with V-shaped scarifier; with Pops Cab;
 Engine: four (4) stroke cycle turbo-charged; 6 cylinder 130 HP;
 Transmission: Direct drive, powershift
 Front and Rear tires: 13.00 x 24 x 12 PR traction type

All interested parties are hereby required to submit the following documents for evaluation not later than **5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2001** at the Department of Agriculture - SPCMD, Room 302, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City or Project Support Office of CHARM Project, Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City:

- a. Distributorship Agreement
- b. Business Permit
- c. DTI Registration
- d. Latest Income Tax Return
- e. VAT/Non-VAT Registration
- f. Detailed Profile of the Firm
- g. Duly Audited Financial Statements for the last three years
- h. Other relevant documents, as may be required

Further information may be obtained at the DA-SPCMD at telephone numbers **927-9636 to 39** or DA-CHARM PSO at telephone numbers **(074) 444-7894, (074) 444-8329**.

Bidding documents will be issued to qualified bidders from **October 30, 2001** up to **November 5, 2001** at DA-SPCMD or DA-CHARM PSO. Cost of the Bid Documents is **P500.00** (non-refundable).

The Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids will be held at DA-CHARM Project Conference Room on **November 6, 2001, 2:00 PM** and **November 13, 2001, 2:00 PM** respectively.

A bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of either cash or manager/cashier's check must be submitted together with the bid.

DA-CHARM Project reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Department/Project.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDUARDO E. GARCIA**
 Director, Legal Service/
 Special Bids and Awards
 Committee (SBAC) Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 8, 7 & 8, 2001)

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BUSINESS

LOCAL INDUSTRIES PROTEST

Court finds flaw in Safeguard Act

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LOCAL industries have become sitting ducks to the dumping of foreign-made goods after a local court ruled that the Safeguard Measures Act, the Filipino businessmen's main defense against import surge, was unconstitutional.

In a statement, the Federation of Philippine Industries said that the Valenzuela Regional Trial Court's ruling citing the constitutional flaw of the Safeguard Law has set a dangerous precedent because it laid the ground for questioning the legality of the Anti-Dumping Law and Countervailing Law.

Valenzuela RTC judge Floro P. Alejo opined that it was unconstitutional for mere Cabinet secretaries to usurp the power of taxation reserved only for the President.

Under the Safeguard Act, Congress authorized the secretary of

trade and industry (for manufactured goods) and the secretary of agriculture (for farm and fishery products) to impose punitive tariffs or quotas to prevent imports from flooding the market and drowning local industries.

The FPI claimed that Alejo's ruling would also apply to the Anti-Dumping and Countervailing laws because these laws also empowered the secretaries of trade and agriculture to impose additional duties as penalties for unfair trade practices.

Industries threatened by a surge in cheap imports could petition the government to impose either anti-dumping or countervailing duties to protect them from predatory traders that dump their goods into the country at substantially lower prices than those prevailing in their home markets.

Congress enacted the Safeguard Act to provide a more accessible and more stringent means

to thwart dumping.

The FPI warned that without these safety nets or defenses to shield them, local businesses would be driven out of business while their substantial workforce would be left without jobs.

The FPI questioned the RTC's decision because it considered the tariff to be imposed on imports under the Act mainly as a means of boosting revenues rather than as a tool to repel excessive importation. "To view the Act as a tariff measure is to misunderstand the law," the FPI said.

In his Sept. 4 decision, Alejo opined that Congress could delegate its power of taxation only to the President and not to the heads of the Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Agriculture.

The RTC imposed a preliminary injunction against the trade secretary from deciding on separate petitions filed by the Philip-

pine Cement Manufacturers Corp. and the Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Association for the imposition of punitive duties and quantitative restrictions on competing imports under the Safeguard Act. These petitions were the first to be filed under the year-old Safeguard Act.

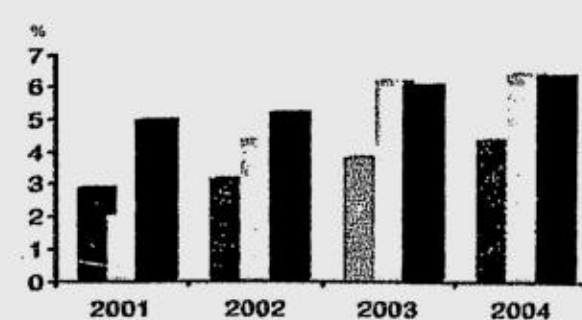
"We appeal to the good sense of the petitioners to withdraw their petition and the RTC to lift the preliminary injunction in the better interests of the country," the FPI said.

The petition was filed by several companies engaged in trading cement, tiles and steel and the Consumers Union of the Philippines. They claimed that Congress abused its discretion in drafting the Safeguard Act. Alejo stressed that the preliminary objection was meant to maintain the status quo until the courts have ruled on whether there was a constitutional flaw in the enactment of the Safeguard Act.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Targetted sectors' growth rates (2001 to 2004, in percent)



Source: National Economic and Development Authority

THE AGRICULTURE sector is projected to grow by a yearly average of 3.1 to 4 percent from 2001 to 2004. Industrial growth, estimated at 4.6 to 5-percent yearly, was premised on higher manufacturing output, increased private sector-led infrastructure activities, higher demand for utilities and better mining operations. The services sector was projected to grow yearly from 2001 to 2004 by an average of 5.4 to 5.9 percent.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Gov't seeking \$75-M ADB loan to cut deficit

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PHILIPPINE government is negotiating with the Asian Development Bank for a \$75-million loan anchored on capital market reforms.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the loan would be disbursed upon approval late this year.

Although anchored on non-bank financial sector reforms, the loan would be used to finance projected budget deficits this year or next year.

The government expects the deficit to hit P145 billion this year and P130 billion next year.

"This will be disbursed very quickly, and the approval will not be a problem because more of the conditions have been met, or at least have already started," Camacho said.

As conditions for the loan, the ADB wants the government to strengthen the supervisory and regulatory powers of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the demutualization of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The ADB expects the country's capital market reforms to help develop a more robust and diversified financial system and promote the growth of the non-bank financial services sector.

Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong said, meanwhile, that the World Bank pledged last week to provide more financial assistance to the Philippines and help the country stave off the impact of a global economic slowdown.

Amatong met with World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley last week, who reiterated the World Bank's support for the Philippine economy in terms of program- and project-specific loans.

Amatong said it was up to the government to take advantage of the generosity of the World Bank.

So far, the Philippine government has applied for a \$200-million public finance sector reform loan, and a follow-up of the same amount is likely.

In her meeting with Pulley, Amatong tried to discourage the World Bank from using the country's rate of official development assistance (ODA) utilization as gauge of the Philippine government's ability to use funding efficiently.

The country's low utilization rate is always an issue being used against the Philippines by its multilateral creditors.

So far, Amatong said, the country's rate of ODA utilization had improved to about 94 percent from 70 percent.

Next year, the government wants to keep the rate at 94 percent and use available funding as part of its foreign financing for the budget deficit.

"Part of the reason for the low utilization is also the creditors' strict requirements. It's not entirely our fault," Amatong said.

She noted that because of the commitment fees the government paid to lenders once a loan was approved, it would naturally want to fast-track the use to save on the fees.

Palawan assured of just share in gas field income

BY JOFELLE P. TESORIO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The national government has assured the province of Palawan that it would get its just share in the benefits arising from the Camago-Malampaya Gas Project.

Gov. Joel Reyes said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho made the assurance in their meeting last Friday. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo also gave her word on this matter during her trip to Japan, where Reyes was a member of the delegation that accompanied the President.

Reyes said the government has come up with a win-win arrangement that would not prejudice the province.

The national government, he said, was planning to securitize its share in the income of the Camago-Malampaya gas field through some funding options.

The provincial government, he added, might opt to ride on with the scheme of the national government. Under such a scheme, the national government and the province of Palawan will be able to advance their shares of the project's future income.

The provincial government earlier planned to raise \$100 million through international bond flotation backed by its future income from the Malampaya project. The plan did not

push through as certain politicians opposed it.

Reyes explained that despite the prevailing economic problem, the national government has a moral obligation to give Palawan its share from the natural wealth.

There were earlier talks that Palawan was not entitled to a share in the income from Malampaya because the gas project was not within its municipal waters.

However the Local Government Code states that natural wealth within 15 kilometers from the shorelines of a municipality is still considered within the municipal waters.

Reyes argued that even if the gas project was not found inside municipal waters, it was surrounded by the municipalities of El Nido, Taytay and Linapacan—all in Palawan.

Since 1993, the province has been receiving its share from the oil exploration in northern Palawan.

This, he said, supported the province's right over the natural gas in the area. The province is expected to get at least \$1.2 billion from the project in 20 years.

The first gas flow reached the gas terminal in Batangas on Sept. 24 and the formal inauguration of the 501-km pipeline from Palawan to a refinery in Sta. Rita, Batangas, is slated for Oct. 17.

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Metro Pacific losing luster, plans sale of crown jewel

BY DORIS C. DURLAO

WHO in the business world could forget how in 1995, Ricardo Pascua of Metro Pacific Corp. smiled ear to ear in ecstasy when it was announced that his group won the bid to develop the former Fort Bonifacio military bases in Taguig.

It was the peak of the property market then, and Metro Pacific led a 13-member consortium that offered P32.9 billion to acquire the 214 hectares of sprawling land previously held by the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

MPC was obviously bullish about the property industry's prospects, with its offer of P33,000 per square meter. Rival Ayala Land Inc. came in a poor second, offering only about P24,000.

The privatization project was dubbed the biggest urban renewal project in Asia and Metro Pacific, a unit of the Salim group's First Pacific Co. Ltd., envisioned that the property would become a Global City.

It would not only edge out Makati as the country's primary business hub but would become East Asia's "best city of the future." It would house the new headquarters of the Philippine Stock Exchange and the government's investment agencies.

The Asian currency crisis of 1997 drastically warped that vision.

Reality check

The total land area to be developed into the Global City has since then been reduced to 150 hectares after the government was not able to deliver a 64-hectare portion which was populated by squatters.

With the debilitating effects on the real estate sector, Metro Pacific was left saddled with heavy debts and short of cash.

The vision is still there, and there has been significant progress since 1995 despite the difficult economic environment. But the fact remains that MPC is short of cash to complete its vision.

Pushed against the wall with creditors knocking at its door, it is now willing to swallow a bitter pill—give up its crown jewel.

Well-placed sources said that no less than Indonesia's Salim group had already given the go-ahead for MPC to divest its entire 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. held by Bonifacio Land Corp., a 69.6-percent MPC subsidiary.

MPC is not in a position to say no to its parent firm. Earlier this year, First Pacific bailed out BLC from a possible debt default by providing a \$90-million bridge financing needed to cover redemption obligations convertible bonds.

The bridge financing is due this December.

In a disclosure to the PSE last week, MPC confirmed that selling out of the flagship project was among the strategic alternatives considered to strengthen its balance sheet.

"We recognize that in meeting our debt reduction objective, MPC will need to sell substantial pieces of property within the Global City and, if necessary, a significant or even controlling interest in the project," the MPC disclosure said.

Dutch financial giant ING Barings was tapped by MPC to advise it on these "strategic alternatives."

Unloading at loss

If MPC pushes through with the divestment of its controlling stake in BLC at this time, it would have to sell at a price way below its purchase price. But it is left with very little options. Saddled with at least P10.5 billion in debts, it cannot go full-blast with the development of the Global City.

Given the free fall in property prices since the Asian currency turmoil erupted in 1997, analysts said there was no way that MPC could unload at its original acquisition price of P33,000 per square meter.

Remember that when it was selling its rights to an 18.9-hectare portion of the northern central business district, ALI, the lone bidder, quoted only a price of P11,800 per square meter.

There could be more premium (from the buyer's perspective) or less radical cut (from MPC's perspective) if the stake was to be sold



THE GLOBAL City as of last year.

in its entirety rather than on a piecemeal basis, but in any case, MPC still has to unload at a loss.

"They don't have enough capital to fully develop the project. The first option was to dispose other non-core assets and then stick to property but the slump has derailed even its core property business," Mark Securities Corp. head of research Manny Cruz said.

Metro Pacific has already sold other non-core businesses: Metro Bottled Water, packaging firm Steniel Manufacturing Corp. and agro-industrial feeds producer Metrovet Inc. to raise cash.

It has also sold its stake in leader mobile phone provider Smart Communications Inc. to its parent company.

As part of the restructuring, bleeding shipping firm Negros Navigation Co. was also stricken off its books when MPC's shares in the company were issued into dividends to its shareholders.

The attempt to bid out a portion of the project was aimed to help reduce its debts and free up resources for the development of the rest of the global city. But had BLC accepted the bid of rival Ayala Land Inc.—which stood at a 65-percent discount to its acquisition price—local property prices would have further slumped.

Another option for MPC is to tap a strategic partner—not totally sell out but allow some dilution. Given the current global economic slowdown, however, analysts said it would be difficult to find a good deal among foreign investors while very few local property

developers would dare take the risk at this time.

Analysts, however, said MPC's announcement that it was considering to sell its controlling stake in BLC, which in turn controls 55 percent of FBDC, was in effect an attempt to solicit offers.

If it can't sell it piece by piece, it will be auctioned off lock, stock and

barrel.

Debt reduction

Pascua, who is still president and CEO of Metro Pacific and president of FBDC, said: "MPC's primary short-term objective is to bring MPC's debts to a size that can be sustained by our ongoing operations."

"We continue to sell units within the Pacific Plaza Towers development



THE PLAN was to build the 'city of the future.'

and have this year concluded the first land sales since 1996," Pascua said.

Pascua also noted that there were ongoing bilateral negotiations for the development of portions of the Global City, including the 18.9-hectare northern central business district and the 5-hectare portion of the Bonifacio Global City, located in the northeastern portion of the Global City.

"We have recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with a consortium of property developers for the sale of a 2.7-hectare block for a total consideration of P2.45 billion," he added.

To stretch out resources, MPC is also negotiating with the PSE to give it more time to finish the construction of the pledged PSE headquarters in the Global City. The target under the original agreement with the PSE was by 2004.

Life after Fort Boni

In putting its controlling stake in Fort Bonifacio on the auction block, MPC is now in the same situation as other listed companies which earlier had to let go of key assets.

RFM Corp. agreed to sell Cosmos Bottling Corp. to San Miguel Corp. and International Container Terminal Services Inc. agreed to sell its interna-

tional holding unit to erstwhile rival Hutchison group of Hong Kong.

The sale will initially benefit the company by relieving it of its debt burden, but it will leave MPC with almost no other major business.

Will MPC still be MPC with only First e-Bank, leisure estate developer Landco Pacific and high-rise developer Pacific Plaza Towers in its books? Is the First Pacific group, in effect, pulling out its investments in the Philippines?

Worldsec International Securities (Phil.) head of research Eric Claudio said the MPC's exit from Fort Bonifacio could simply be a realignment of interests.

A pullout from the property sector, he said, would not hurt the country so much if the proceeds were to be diverted to the group's local interests, such as telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Without its crown jewel, however, MPC will never be the same again. The even bigger question is, will it be able to get an acceptable offer given the sluggish environment?

Until this is resolved, it may be some time before the industry can again see that smile on Ric Pascua's face.

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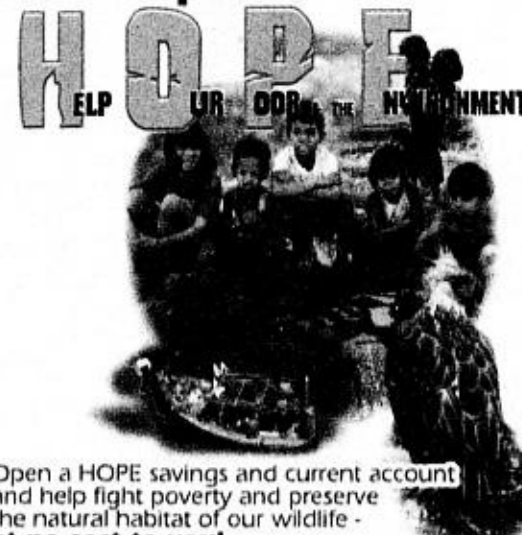
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The long Malampaya journey

(First of two parts)

LAST week, on Oct. 1, natural gas from the Malampaya field in Palawan was converted into electricity. The 1,000-megawatt Santa Rita (the patron saint of the impossible) power plant in Batangas, which had been operating for the past year with liquid fuels like diesel, naphtha and condensate, officially began its commissioning on natural gas.

The fuel is cheaper, friendlier to the environment and will be transformed into electricity at the highest efficiencies by Siemens turbines, which employ the latest technology.

To one who has seen this enterprise up close, first as a bystander and later as an active participant, it is an exciting moment.

For here is an achievement to be shared by the many involved in its development. And to every Filipino, this milestone should take a special luster for it comes amid the chaos here and abroad.

Many made the journey

It has been a long journey from Malampaya's first discovery in 1989 (actually, it was in the adjoining Camago field) to its eventual sale in 2001. It had been monitored and supported by four presidents and five secretaries of energy (more if you add presidential energy advisers).

First discovered by Occidental Petroleum (Oxy), the Malampaya development, also called the upstream part of the project, has seen changes in its service contractors. Shell bought a 50-percent stake from Oxy in 1991, swapped some global assets with Oxy to have the full 100 percent in 1998, then brought in Texaco in 1999 and

PNOC in 2000.

A few ownership changes have occurred as well in the downstream or the power generators.

A First Gas stockholder, British Gas which has a 40-percent stake, demerged (split up into two companies) twice since 1995, when it signed its joint venture agreement with First Philippine Holdings.

The venture later called First Gas eventually developed two power projects, namely Santa Rita and San Lorenzo, totaling 1,500 megawatts. Kepco, the Korean government's integrated electricity company, which after a rebidding won the rights to develop the 1,200-megawatt Ilijan power plant, also sold equity stakes to Southern Electric, now called Mirant, and to Chubu Electric, a Japanese utility.

The reasons for divestments vary with each organization, but when the investments are large totaling about \$4.5 billion for all Malampaya participants, the temptation to mitigate risk by cashing in on exploration or development profits or enlisting strategic partnerships is strong even for the largest corporations.

About 10 private corporations have had stakes in the Malampaya enterprise since its discovery. The number of decision makers can be multiplied even further if you count the shifting assignments of CEOs, country managers, EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) contractors, lenders, lawyers and engineering advisers, all of whom played key roles in the private sector.

Add the government officials, national and local, who at one time or another played a "make or break" role in some critical aspect of the project. On that matter, underscore the roles of officials in the Department of Energy, the National Power Corp. (NPC), the province of Palawan and the City of Batangas, and you have a

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Peter D. Garrucho Jr.



multi-faceted tale of decision-making as you transform a natural resource into a vital infrastructure asset.

Many awesome challenges

Perhaps a historian or a management professor will some day trace the pivotal developments that pushed the project forward or threatened its future.

The details blur, but it began for me in an Aquino Cabinet meeting in 1989 when the President announced, after a note was handed to her, that Oxy had discovered a major gas field in Palawan of so many billion cubic feet (bcf).

A Cabinet member wondered aloud about how to convert one bcf into barrels of oil, for no one really knew then what this economic boon would mean for the country and the government's treasury.

Shell, who got the operatorship agreement with its 50-percent stake in June 1990, intensified exploration resulting in the discovery of the larger Malampaya field in 1991.

The commercial value of the field (about 2.4 trillion cubic feet was the number announced then) was eventually confirmed in 1994, about the time I joined First Holdings. But a market had to be found for some 3,000 megawatts of natural gas-fired power. And so in 1995, government assigned 1,500 megawatts each to Meralco and to the NPC for development.

While those were the heady years of the Ramos administration, there would still be skepticism over

whether the intricate negotiations over gas supply, EPC contracts or financing could be pulled off by the various players in the field. Basic issues had to be addressed.

Would a high gas price prove competitive long term in a deregulated electricity market? Was Meralco credit (with no government guarantees) acceptable to the project finance lenders? Could the gas be easily delivered to the plant sites? Were transmission capacities sufficient? Would there be an electricity oversupply, given that the gas sellers needed a ready market by 2001 to justify some \$2 billion of investments in the upstream?

The matter of gas price

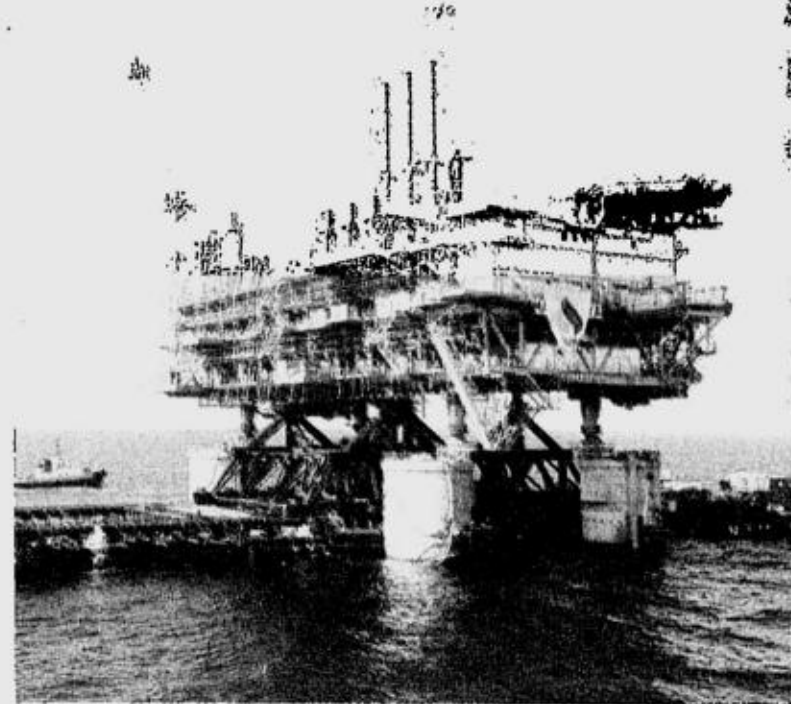
For this column, let me just focus on three general matters, which from our vantage point had a major impact on the gas project. One contentious issue was the gas price.

The first numbers proposed by the gas sellers were high. They were predicated on returns that were necessary to justify the upstream investments, yet would deliver an electricity price that would beat a coal alternative. As expected, there were disagreements on what were real and reasonable assumptions.

For us at First Gas, the pricing negotiations invited an LNG (liquefied natural gas) challenge. We went on a purchasing foray, visiting sellers such as QGPC of Qatar, Petronas of Malaysia and Pertamina of Indonesia.

Because there was Malampaya, these suppliers wondered whether we were just using LNG as a stalking horse and worried that we were wasting their time. But serious discussions with LNG suppliers followed and merited careful review.

It even got presidential attention when the chair of our partner BG, in a visit to the Philippines, brought up the



THE MALAMPAYA natural gas rig.

alternative of LNG, much to the surprise of President Ramos. It was a difficult time in the negotiations, but with our chair Oscar Lopez's guidance and direction, a reasonable gas price had to be pursued, and the LNG discussions pushed forward.

While LNG was, and remains an alternative, the pricing deadlock was eventually sorted out with the emergence of condensate as the most viable liquid fuel alternative. The 1000-megawatt Santa Rita plant was due to start operations 18 months before the scheduled arrival of the gas, either from local Malampaya or from imported LNG.

In order to close financing, we had to secure a long-term, liquid fuel contract with a reliable supplier, which at the same time allowed for the shift to

natural gas once available. After all, the gas might never get delivered.

Through a bidding process, we chose Enron, which was expanding its role as an energy trading company. The usual liquid fuel alternatives, diesel and naphtha were expensive due to their market prices or their tax regime.

Enron suggested condensate, a liquid by-product in the gas extraction process, which had similar physical characteristics to diesel. Siemens, our equipment supplier, confirmed the acceptability of condensate for a 25-year operation. The condensate breakthrough set a benchmark that the natural gas price had to beat and allowed the gas negotiations to proceed at a more brisk pace. (To be continued)



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He, however, says the work load suits his personality. He describes himself as a "restless" soul

EXECUTIVE/ C5

"Continuing to cut," he said, "would have been like hitting the brakes of a car already standing still. You might push your foot through the floor of the car and



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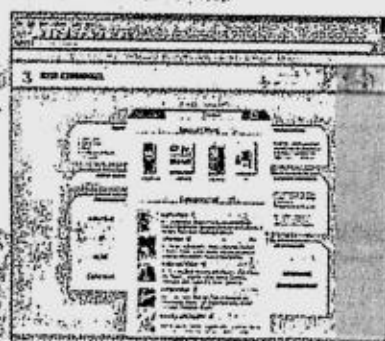
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Wall Street trading floors crammed in pantries

NEW YORK—Investment bank CIBC World Markets has crammed 45 stock traders into a space meant for 25 at its uptown Manhattan offices, and lowered the temperature by 15 degrees (8 degrees Celsius) to compensate for the extra body heat.

The firm, which laid 1 million feet of new cable in a week to help reconnect its traders to the outside world, is one of many scrambling to regroup three weeks after the attack on the

World Trade Center that left more than 5,000 dead or missing and displaced tens of thousands of office workers.

Many traders still use their cellular phones to communicate and some did not have Internet access until Monday. A pantry holds five desks, and the cafeteria is the center for processing stock trades.

Brokerage commissions have been slashed by about \$225,000 a day because destroyed telephone lines are

hampering business, said Dan McMahon, CIBC's head of block trading.

But there hasn't been a single complaint.

"Who cares? Everyone's safe," said Peter Feinberg, the firm's managing director of US equities. "And we're still in the game." Feinberg was in Boston the day of the attack.

It has not been easy to reclaim peace of mind, or business, after hijacked airlines slammed into New

York's World Trade Center on Sept. 11. Traders, who handle millions in stock transactions daily, are known for being brash and competitive.

But now they struggle with emotional flashbacks of falling bodies, crumbling buildings and terror. Some jump at the sound of sirens. And many come back to work depressed after scores of services conducted for lost friends and colleagues.

On top of dealing with their own sadness, managers must scramble to replace thousands of computers and desks, cope with the loss of paper files compiled over decades and worry about an economic slowdown that threatens profits further.

Disruptions to trading

Lehman Brothers' new trading floor in the World Financial Center, which is adjacent to the World Trade Center and closed indefinitely, had

been operational just one day before the attack.

Now some Lehman traders are working out of a hastily refurbished accounting office in Jersey City, New Jersey, while others are in Boston.

"For all of us, work has given us a focus, given us something to succeed at," said Robert Arancio, head of Nasdaq trading for Lehman Brothers. "Now we're working on getting the

WALL/C6



ROEHR

Executive

(From page C3)

who prefers being on the go than to just standing still.

"I get restless if I am in one place too long," he says.

Roehr's hands-on management style helped Biogenetics grow to become one of the country's leading producers of generics medicines. It expanded slowly but surely since Roehr entered the Philippine pharmaceutical market in 1987.

Roehr is aggressive but maintains a conservative approach when it comes to expansion. The company's growth to date has been achieved without any external financial support other than through trade-related suppliers and shareholder loans.

Roehr says the company was able to move to where it is now by combining the best of the German and Asian ways of doing business.

"Germans have always been known for discipline and hard work and these are what I have tried to teach the staff. But I consciously try to find compromises with certain Asian traditions because I can also be too straight or too pushy," he adds.

Roehr says he has not found it too difficult to blend his work style with his Asian colleagues because he has been in the region for too long.

"I have lived over 20 years outside Germany so I am used to the Asian mentality, and now I live in Mallorca, Spain, with my family," he says.

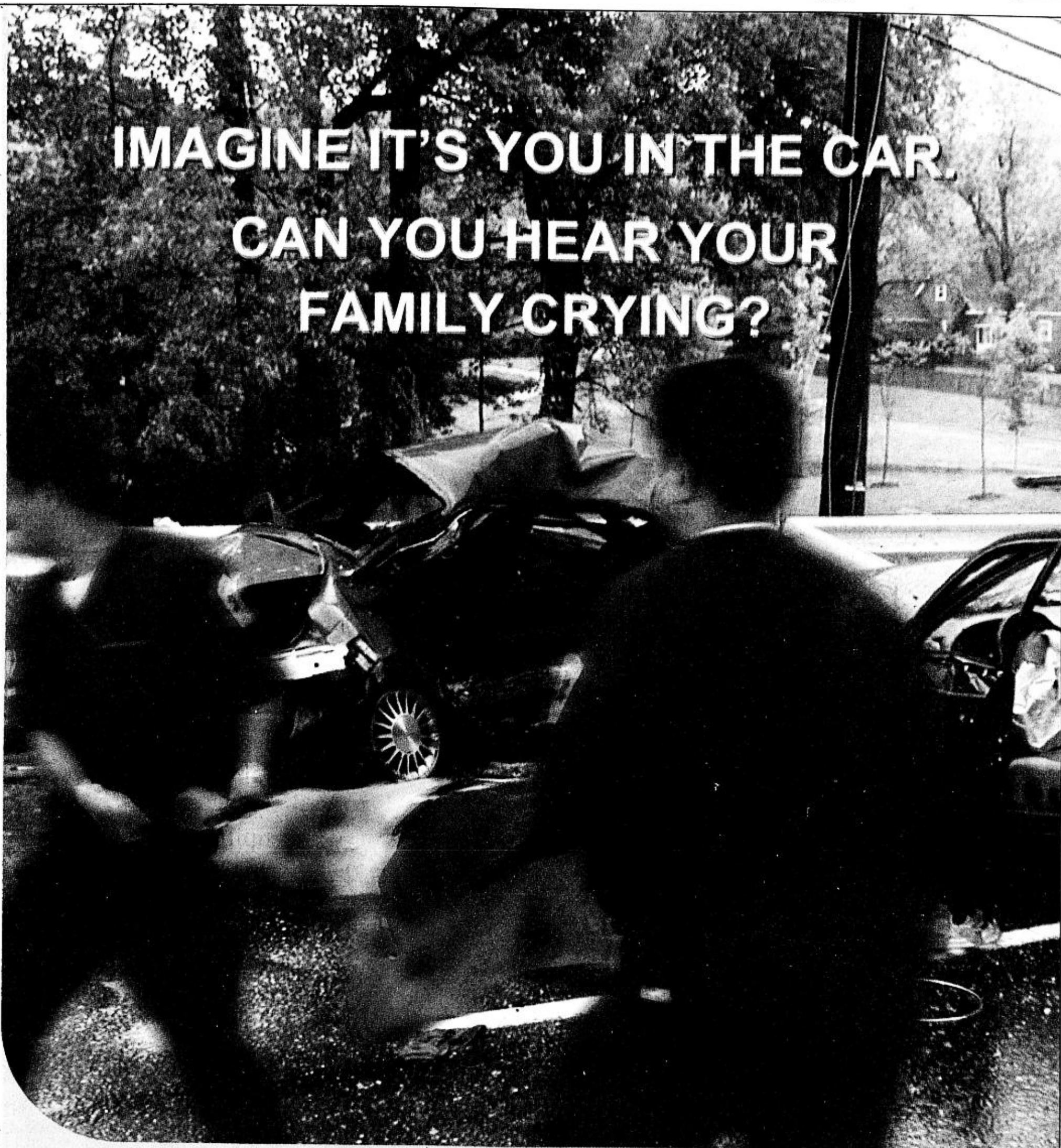
Roehr adds that having a common vision of where they want to take the company goes a long way in getting the company to get there.

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STANDARD Chartered Bank is giving all SCB Visa Electron card applicants the major chance to go on a one-time shopping spree at a Rustan's supermarket; all for the bank's account.

Dubbed as the "SCB Visa Electron Supermarket Raid," the promotion draws interest on the debit card feature of the SCB Visa Electron, which allows card holders to do secure, hassle-free and cashless shopping.

Tonette delos Reyes, vice president and senior manager for products and distribution of wealth management, clarifies that the "SCB Supermarket Raid" promotion is open to all SCB Visa Electron card applicants.



John Lennon once said; "Life is what happens to you, while you're making plans."

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Former star turns down reel for real business

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MONEY not only rains on people in show business, it pours.

It is no wonder then that people are willing to do anything and be anything just to get a television or movie contract. After all, they can earn in a month or two what many other people work hard to earn in a year, maybe more.

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez was one of these showbiz personalities. As early as 16 years old, this beautiful mestiza and daughter of former matinee idol Jose Mari Gonzalez, earned her first paycheck just by appearing as a talent in a commercial.

From then she spent years in show business, earning quite a paycheck. But even at the height of her popularity, she knew that she would have to do something more lasting if she wanted to continue living comfortably.

"I knew that it was not forever. Sure I was earning money but I know that it would not last because there would always be a new person out there, some-

body younger and more beautiful. So I had to think about doing something else," Cristina tells the INQUIRER.

She then turned into business. As early as her 20s, she put up her own company selling ready to wear clothes. She hired sewers and designers and sold clothes through a little stall in Virra Mall.

"I tried it and I liked it, the office was just based at home, in the basement and I used to join fairs and bazaars in the 1980s. It was fun because I was with friends," Cristina recalls.

From her RTW business, she also went into buying and selling houses in Parañaque. It was right up her alley because she applied what she learned from the Philippine School for Interior Design.

"I would buy old houses, fix them up a little and then I would sell them. I did not have any big savings because the money that I had, I used for my buy-and-sell business. I also enjoyed that because I was able to sell quite a few," Cristina says.

She continued doing it until she

married former Leyte Rep. Alfred Romualdez in 1998.

Her business took a backseat because she was intent on building a family and helping her husband perform his duties as representative of the province. She was also engrossed in her new role as mother to now 2-year-old daughter Sofia.

But when Alfred failed in his reelection bid this year, she saw another opportunity to go into business, thus, she took over the operations of Patio Victoria, an old property of the Romualdezes in Intramuros that she is now sprucing up to be a new venue for beautiful weddings.

Cristina says she has always fantasized of having a garden wedding, but she did not get one when she got married in Tacloban, Leyte. But now she wants to help other brides fulfill their dreams by having it in Patio Victoria.

Patio Victoria provides an old world charm from the large wooden gate to the cobblestone walkway and the gazebo. She says guests will come

in feeling that they are in a different place at a different time.

As for the cuisine, Patio Victoria will offer a mix of Spanish, Filipino and Continental. Specialties will include lengua, callos and paella, pasta, salad, roast beef and chicken.

"It is a learning process again for me but I hired consultants to help me here. I don't pretend to know everything but I know what a bride looks for and here I can help and give advice," she says.

She has been involved in a sea of details to prepare for the opening of Patio Victoria next month but she is excited. She tried to expand her knowledge by looking through the Internet, browsing through magazines and talking to people in the know.

"I consult my husband in everything in this business because he also has his own businesses like a warehousing operation in Leyte and a shipping operation based in Manila. He helps me but I also apply my own knowledge," Cristina says.

Cristina, after all, was raised by a fa-



CRISTINA Gonzalez-Romualdez at work at Patio Victoria.

ther who was not only in show business but operated a real business as well.

"My dad used to own a recording studio called Cinema Audio. It was downstairs and we lived upstairs. It is now called Digital One. I guess business has always been with us," she adds.

Cristina says she has to work harder now to earn the same amount of money compared to when she was actively in show business. But she has no regrets.

"It is more fulfilling because I have to work harder for it and I hope that this will be more permanent," she says.

MOVEMENTS

Equitable-PCI Bank announces promotion

EQUITABLE-PCI Bank, one of the country's largest banks, recently announced the promotion of Rene J. Buenaventura to senior executive vice president and group head of retail banking. He joined the bank in 1981 as corporate lending officer.

Buenaventura is currently at the helm of the bank's more than 500 branches as well as Equitable-PCI Bank's thrift banks and remittance businesses. He is also the concurrent head of PCI Leasing and Finance Inc., the bank's leasing and finance subsidiary, which remains the country's largest leasing and finance company in terms of capitalization, income and branch network.

Buenaventura is a summa cum laude graduate from De La Salle University, where he earned double degrees in Liberal Arts and Commerce.

A certified public accountant, he likewise holds an MBA from De La Salle. He finished his Advanced Management Program for Overseas Bankers at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Alcatel bares appointments

ALCATEL announced the following senior appointments to the local management team.

Arturo U. Calaguas is Alcatel's new chief technology officer and brings to the company two decades of experience in the field of information technology. His prior employment was with Getronics Philippines where he stayed for 15 years.

Calaguas also held senior technical positions at the Technology Management Division of Citibank N.A. and the Automated Systems Development Section of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Rowen Paul A. Untivero joins Alcatel as its new country manager for Mobile Phones Division. Untivero shares over 12 years of sales and marketing management experience, the last at Liberty Telecoms—Radionet Inc. as vice president.

Dionette P. Bautista is the new senior manager for customer satisfaction and strategic marketing. Bautista has been engaged in market research and data processing for 17 years.

New PITC head

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed Arthur C. Yap as president of the Philippine International Trading Corp.

A former Economics student of the President at the Ateneo De Manila University, Yap now heads the state-owned trading company which, under Executive Order 120, promotes and oversees countrade activities that arise from RP government to foreign government/international supply transactions.

One of its critical functions is its designation by the trade department as the lead agency tasked with the importation of affordable quality medicines under the "Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya" Program.

Wall Street . . .

(From page C5)

firm back to where it was before this happened."

CIBC, which is owned by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, also had its stock trading operations in the World Financial Center. After the attacks, the firm moved the equity traders to its midtown bond trading floor.

The trading floor on 43rd and Lexington now is awash in American flags that flutter from computer screens, hang from overhead lights and line temporary walls. People are crammed into corners where file cabinets once rested. Brown cafeteria lunch tables double as desks.

The collapse of the Trade Center cut lines that connected traders to clients with the push of a button, and the firm's business has dropped by a third because customers, such as Fidelity Investments, the country's largest mutual fund firm, now must call a general line rather than dial their favorite traders directly, said McMahon.

Even when clients take the time, they often get a busy signal. Some just call other firms, McMahon said. Lehman's temporary space in Jersey City is no more comfortable than CIBC's new digs.

Lehman, like other Wall Street firms, in the late 1990s had set up satellite offices across the Hudson River as a millennium computer bug safeguard.

Construction workers using hacksaws quickly prepared the space for trading, said Arancio. Even so, it can hold only about 70 percent of Lehman's 125 equity traders, so they rotate days off.

"We usually have 16 Nasdaq market makers, but now we're at 11 or 12," said Arancio. "We're using a space that was used for different, non-trading reasons. But people are understanding."

Changes for the better

Traders say they have a renewed appreciation for colleagues and families. That means more hugs, long talks, even tears on occasion.

"So many friends of ours and close buddies . . . well, we've been going to a lot of services and trying to pick up the pieces," said Michael Lyons, a listed equity trader for Morgan Stanley, which had some trading operations on the 60th floor of 2 World Trade Center. Lyons was on the ground floor when the first plane struck and crouched in a subway tunnel after hearing the second plane strike. He said all traders on his floor were evacuated safely.

The attacks have made people look beyond the next trade

Reuters

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METROBANK E.T. International Card

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH

LITA PASCUAL, Account Manager

Worldwide access with Cirrus Maestro tie-up



METROBANK, the country's leading bank, has tied up with Cirrus Maestro to come up with the new Metrobank E.T. International card.

With the new Metrobank E.T. International card, accountholders can now withdraw cash from any of the over 600,000 Cirrus-Maestro ATMs in over 100 countries worldwide, in the currency of the country they are in. This assures travelers of always being able to pay in cash in places where traveler's checks and credit cards are not acceptable, like in public transport, sidewalk stalls, fast food restaurants, night markets and movie houses.

With the new Metrobank E.T. International card,

accountholders need not bring lots of cash when they travel abroad, thus risk of loss is minimized.

According to Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan Jr., "We decided to tie up with Cirrus-Maestro so we can provide greater convenience to our clients. Moreover, this new offering is in keeping with our efforts to enhance the bank's products and services in the digital age."

In the Philippines, the new international card retains all the convenient features of the Metrobank E.T. card such as cash withdrawal day and night, bills payment, fund transfer to another Metrobank account or any BancNet-member account, and the reloading of prepaid

cellular phone credits through over 400 Metrobank E.T.s and 1,600 BancNet ATMs nationwide.

To avail of this new service, existing Metrobank E.T. cardholders may have their old cards replaced at their depository branch for only P25. New ATM account depositors can get the international card for an initial deposit of at least P2,000.

Foreigners who are not Metrobank depositors can also enjoy the convenience offered by Metrobank's Cirrus-Maestro tie-up. Foreigners in the Philippines who have Cirrus-Maestro-affiliated ATM cards can withdraw from any of Metrobank's over 400 ATMs nationwide.

MESSAGE

ON BEHALF of MasterCard International, I congratulate Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company on the launch of its new Metrobank E.T. Cirrus Maestro International card.

With this new international-access ATM product, Metrobank E.T. cardholders can now enjoy the unparalleled global acceptance and recognition of the MasterCard brand. Metrobank E.T. Cirrus Maestro International card now allows Metrobank depositors access to their funds anytime, anywhere at any of the 620,000 Cirrus ATMs and 5.4 million Maestro terminals in 102 countries around the world.

It is our pleasure to bring this global service to the Filipino consumer. MasterCard International is more excited that Metrobank offers its depositors more value through its E.T. International ATM Promotion support-

ing this international card launch.

MasterCard International Asia Pacific region joins me in congratulating the officers and staff of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company on the launch of the Metrobank E.T. Cirrus Maestro International card. We are certain this new product further strengthens the excellent relationship between Metrobank and MasterCard. With Metrobank, MasterCard is committed to forge ahead in offering innovative payment programs to consumers in the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

JOSE RENE L. VILLA-REAL
Vice President and Country Manager
MasterCard International Philippines Inc.

All geared up

BY CEZ PARAGAS ALMAZAR

NOW that you know what the new Metrobank E.T. Cirrus Maestro card can do, both locally and internationally, let Metrobank bring you a step further.

Since your utmost convenience has always been the priority, the country's largest bank now rewards you with the "Drive Home a Toyota Altis" promo. Loads of exciting gift packages await all Metrobank E.T. International cardholders nationwide. What's more, one lucky

winner will get to drive home a brand new 2001 Toyota Altis, complete with automatic functions and the works. Four trips for two to Singapore and four trips for two to Hong Kong await the second and third prize winners, respectively. Fourth prize winners will get four trips for two to Bangkok. For each of the three trips, there will be one winner each from Metro Manila, Luzon,



SINGAPORE

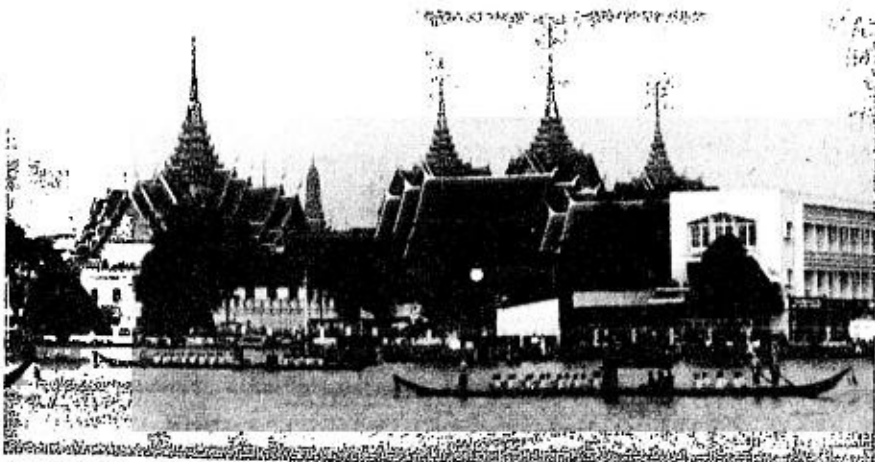
Visayas and Mindanao. Each trip comes with round-trip airfare, three days-two nights hotel accommodation, airport transfer and, of course, shopping money worth \$500.

Also, Metrobank is giving away 12 Nokia 8890s as consolation prizes. Now, banking through mobile phones and calling from around the world has never been this stylish. Three consolation prize winners will come from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

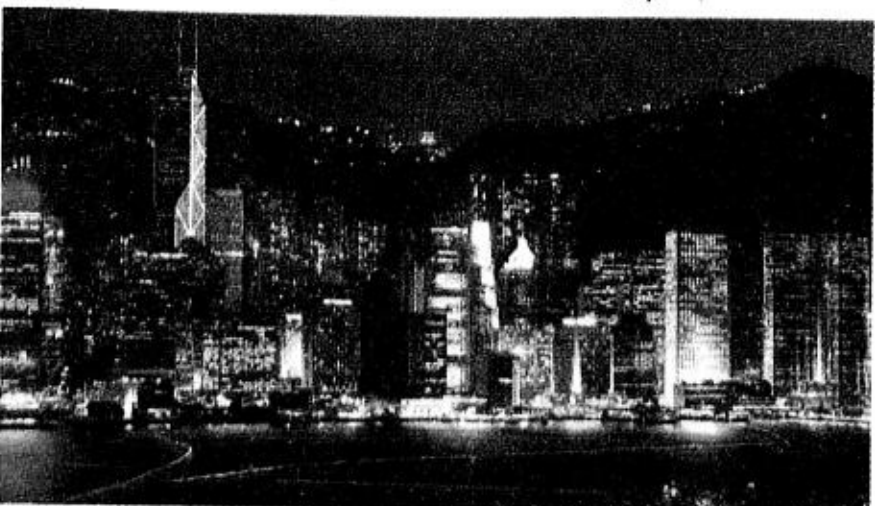
Qualifying for this promo is easy. Simply open a Metrobank E.T. account and you will be issued the new Metrobank E.T. International card. Embossed on the face of the card is your international card number, which doubles as your raffle entry. For existing Metrobank E.T. accountholders, all you need to do is surrender your old card in exchange for the new one. Replacement fee is P25.

Depositors who have been given their Metrobank E.T. International cards since Aug. 13 automatically qualify for the "Drive Home a Toyota Altis" contest. Promo ends on Jan. 31, 2002. The grand draw will be on Feb. 14, 2002 and will be held at the Metrobank Plaza Penthouse.

For more contest information, drop by any Metrobank branch nearest you or call the Customer Service hotline at 898-8712.



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Minimum purchase requirement of P500.00

Per DTI-NCH Permit No. 1447, Series of 2001

Cirrus, Maestro lead in deposit access

THE MasterCard/Cirrus ATM Network is the world's largest integrated, global automated teller machine (ATM) network. It gives MasterCard and Cirrus cardholders safe and secure access to their cash at ATMs worldwide. Consumers using banking cards bearing the Cirrus logo can access their demand deposit accounts (e.g. checking, current, NOW and/or savings) and those whose credit cards bear the MasterCard or Cirrus logos may receive a cash advance from an ATM against their line of credit.

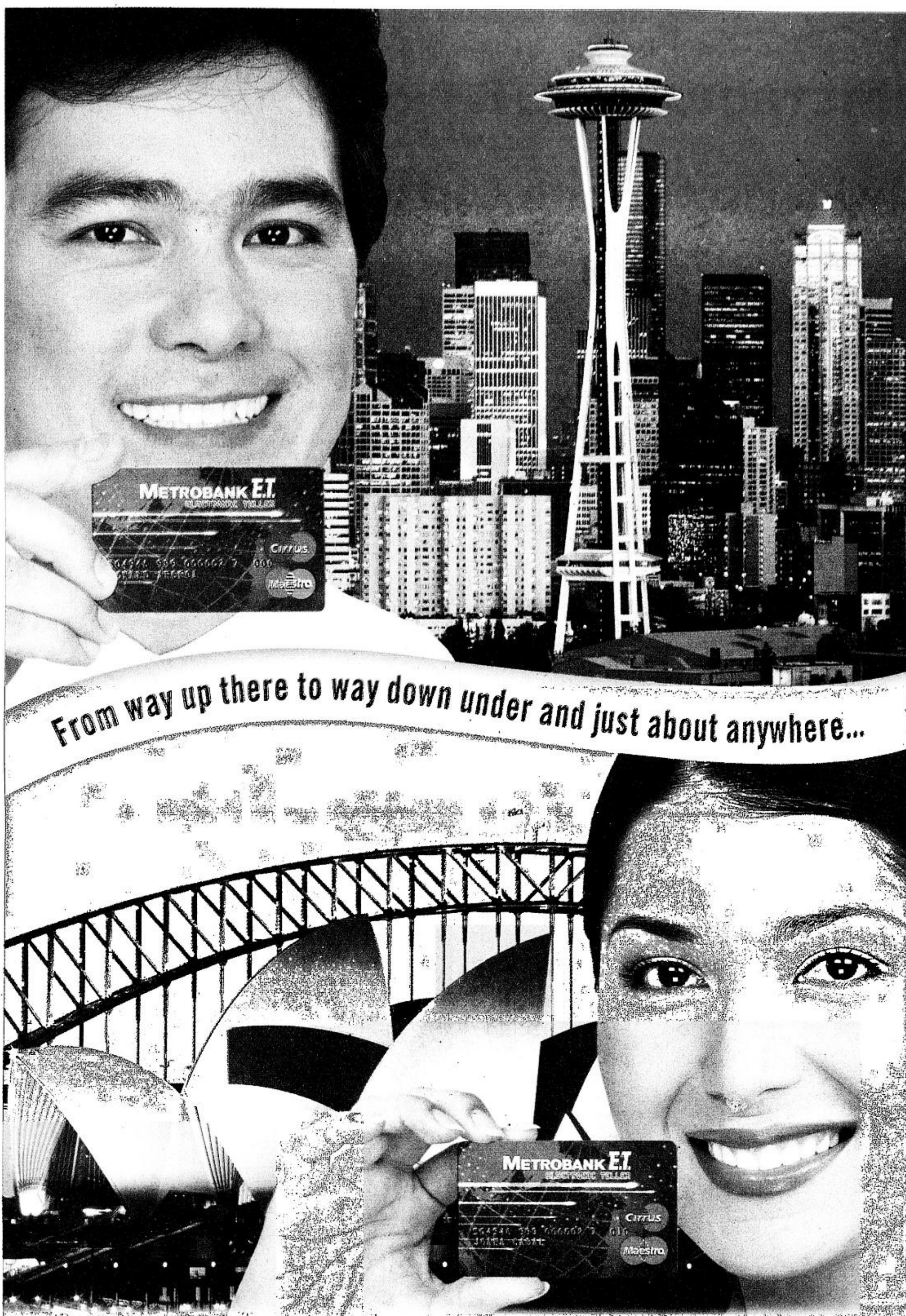
Among the benefits realized by consumers through the use of the global MasterCard/Cirrus ATM network are:

- Secure and confident access to cash anytime, anywhere (credit card goes against line of credit)
- The greatest number of ATM locations worldwide
- Instant availability of funds and account information
- Consistent and reliable service
- Favorable exchange rates

As of the first quarter 2001, the Cirrus program had 620,000 ATMs in 102 countries across the globe, making it one of the largest ATM networks in the world.

Maestro is the world's leading global online PIN-based point-of-sale deposit access program. No other deposit access product offers the global acceptance and recognition that Maestro brings to customers and merchants alike. The program was launched in Asia in November 1993 and has since grown exponentially, from zero cards in Asia Pacific in 1993 to 111 million cards issued by end-2000.

Maestro has made such significant gains in the region that it has become the *de facto* national deposit access program in countries as diverse as India, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. Worldwide, there are 5.4 million Maestro terminals that customers can use to access their own funds with their PIN.



From way up there to way down under and just about anywhere...

...you can withdraw cash with the new Metrobank E.T. international card.

Withdraw local currency in the country you're in anywhere in the world! With the new Metrobank E.T. international card, you'll never have to worry about carrying too much cash or making unnecessary trips to the money changers when you are abroad. The new Metrobank E.T. international card is accepted in over 600,000 Cirrus Maestro ATMs in over 100 countries.

Here in the Philippines, you can access your account through over 400 Metrobank E.T.s and over 1,600 BancNet ATMs nationwide. With your Metrobank E.T. international card you can:

- Inquire about your balance
- pay your bills
- reload your pre-paid cell phone
- transfer funds to another Metrobank account*
- transfer funds to another account in a BancNet-member bank*

So whether you're travelling for business or pleasure or just staying in the country, enjoy day and night ATM convenience with the Metrobank E.T. international card. Exchange your old Metrobank E.T. card with the new international card or open a Metrobank E.T. account with at least ₱2,000.00 initial deposit.

*Requires enrollment

Grab the chance to win any of these exciting prizes!

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Grand prize: | 1 unit loaded, all-power Toyota Altis |
| 2nd prizes: | 4 trips to Singapore for 2 plus US\$500 pocket money |
| 3rd prizes: | 4 trips to Hong Kong for 2 plus US\$500 pocket money |
| 4th prizes: | 4 trips to Bangkok for 2 plus US\$500 pocket money |
| Consolation prizes: | 12 Nokia 8590 cell phones |

To qualify, just get your new Metrobank E.T. international card anytime until Jan. 31, 2002.

See flyers or visit any Metrobank branch near you for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1445, Series of 2001

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Staying with your relatives or friends abroad? Here are some tips

BY HERSHEY VILLEGAS

IT'S REALLY convenient to go vacationing abroad when you have a relative or friend to visit. The money you'll spend on hotel accommodations will go to better pursuits such as shopping, dining and sightseeing. Be a "very welcome" houseguest and your hosts will not mind you suddenly extending your vacation or even coming back. Here are the do's and don'ts of making your visit a wonderful experience for you and your hosts.

• **Don't crash. Tell them you're coming.** Even if Pinoys are a hospitable lot, surprise visits can be annoying. Ask your hosts beforehand if you can stay with them. That way, they can make plans for your arrival and even prepare the guestroom for you.

• **Arrive with 'pasalubongs' from home.** It's good manners to bring your hosts a token gift. It need not be expensive, but do get something that you think they'll appreciate.

• **Compliment your hosts.** Your hosts will probably bring out their best linens or china for your arrival. Tell them that they have a lovely home. Compliment their decorating taste or their cooking, but don't overdo it or they'd think it's just lip service.

• **You're a guest, don't get too comfortable.** Unless it's your parents you're visiting, you should still have some reservations. You can't go asking your host to cook your favorite dish, to skip work to show you around or lend you their car (unless they volunteer).

• **Don't expect to be served.** You're not staying in a hotel. Do your own laundry, offer help in wash-

ing the dishes, cooking dinner, cleaning the house, etc.

• **No long distance calls, please.** Don't burden your hosts with the cost of your long distance calls or collect calls. Unless it's an emergency, you have a call card, or it's a call collect to the Philippines, avoid using their phone to call home.

• **Don't be too shy.** An extremely shy houseguest can be as annoying as an overly presumptuous one. Don't go asking permission for everything that you do in your hosts' home like if you can watch TV or use their bathroom. Help yourself to the little things.

• **Treat your hosts.** They know that you're there for vacation and that you want to go out as much as you can. Invite them to go sightseeing or dining with you and insist that it's on you. Be ready with cash. You can use your Metrobank E.T. international card to withdraw from any Cirrus-Maestro ATM abroad.

• **Be grateful.** Thank your host and invite them to stay with you when they visit the Philippines. It will also be nice to buy them a gift before you leave to show your appreciation.

A vacation abroad is really memorable. More so if you have endeared yourself to your hosts that you fly home with the feeling that you're always welcome to come back.



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in health, with your finances, with your children's education, as well as the heritage you will leave them with when the time comes. All these are within your reach now, as you prepare for their future. So when your thoughts ponder on what lies ahead, you'll have no worries. Not when you're backed by Philippine AXA Life.

Trip of a lifetime

BY HERSHEY VILLEGAS

NOTHING beats the experience of visiting a foreign land. The memory of the trip, be it bad or good (which is always the case) lingers for a long, long time. No wonder a lot of

people dream of traveling abroad. So whether you're already living the dream or still working on it, read on and get some tips on how you can make your trip much more enjoyable.

Plan the trip

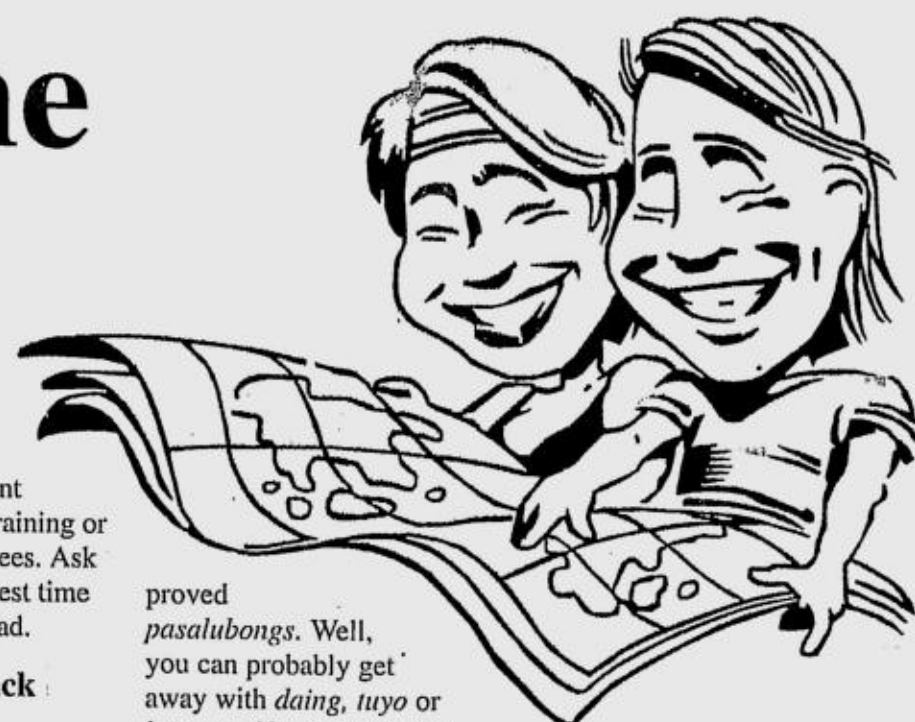
Of course, this is the first thing that you should do. But aside from knowing where to

go, where to stay, where to shop, you should first find out if your scheduled trip to that beautiful country coincides with their beautiful weather. You don't want to visit Bali when it's raining or Italy when it's 45 degrees. Ask your travel agent the best time to make your trip abroad.

Pack light, but pack the necessities

It doesn't mean that if your vacation is longer, your suitcase should be bigger too. Pack just enough clothes and shoes—pieces which you can easily mix and match. Your choice of clothing should depend on the weather of the country you're visiting. It's also wise to bring personal stuff that might be expensive if you buy them there like toothbrush, comb, razor, etc. Bring your prescription medications too (but don't forget the prescription, airport authorities are mighty suspicious about drugs) or allergy creams, you can never be too sure that the brands you are using are available there. And of course, don't forget your camera and travel documents.

If you're visiting relatives, might as well bring pictures from home and airline-ap-



proved *pasalubongs*. Well, you can probably get away with *daing*, *tuyo* or *bagoong* if you pack them well, but it's your risk.

Bring your ATM card

When you travel, it's best that you do with enough pocket money. You don't have to bring a lot of cash though—it's too risky. You can just leave your money in your Metrobank E.T. ATM account and bring along

to take French 101. Simply buy a small pocket guide on the language of the country you are visiting so you can refer to it from time to time when the need arises. Learn simple phrases like "where is the hotel/airport/nearest ATM?", "how much is this?", "oh, that's so expensive, what's

It doesn't mean that if your vacation is longer, your suitcase should be bigger too. Pack just enough clothes and shoes—pieces which you can easily mix and match

your Metrobank E.T. International card so you can withdraw day or night from any Cirrus-Maestro ATM abroad. No more hassles of going to money changers because you get the currency of the country you are in when you withdraw.

Read the label

Don't travel all the way to the United States or United Kingdom to buy souvenir items that are made in China, Taiwan, or even in the Philippines! A lot of products are so deceivingly foreign but are actually made in Asia. We should be proud of that, but the very essence of bringing home a souvenir item is to get one that was not only bought in the country that you visited, but was actually made there. The items need not be expensive. Check out street vendors, night markets, and the like—hey, you can even rummage through a garage sale—you'll find a lot of great bargains.

Learn foreign phrases

The frustrating part about traveling abroad is the language barrier. You don't have

your last price?". As you know, even though English is the universal language, a lot of foreigners don't speak it. So when in Rome, talk Italian... even just a little bit, *capiche?*

Shoot there, develop there

You can never be too sure. What if your shots of your days in the sun didn't come out okay or didn't come out at all? Before you head for home, have your films developed so you can re-shoot if your original shots were disasters. If you wait 'til you're back in the country, you'll probably have to wait for your next trip to take those pictures again.

With a lot of planning, a dash of adventure, a loaded camera and your Metrobank E.T. International card, you can make even the shortest trip abroad the vacation of a lifetime. So before you go anywhere else, make a trip to the nearest Metrobank branch and open a Metrobank E.T. account now. If you already have one, just exchange your old Metrobank E.T. card with the new Metrobank E.T. international card.

How to take care of your ATM card

BANKING through ATMs is really convenient—you simply insert your card to transact, be it day or night, Sunday or holiday. But when your card is rejected by the ATM, or worse, captured by it, it's really a hassle! Don't readily blame the bank or the ATM. You see, ATM cards usually get rejected or captured when they are demagnetized, bent or damaged. Avoid the hassles of being left in the cold cashless and cardless, not to mention the trouble of going to the bank to get a replacement ATM card. Here are some tips on how you can take care of your ATM card so you can transact with it hassle-free for

a long, long time.

- Don't expose the magnetic strip to heat, metal, coins, and magnetic objects.

- Keep your ATM card in its plastic jacket or in your wallet at all times to protect the magnetic strip from scratches and moisture.

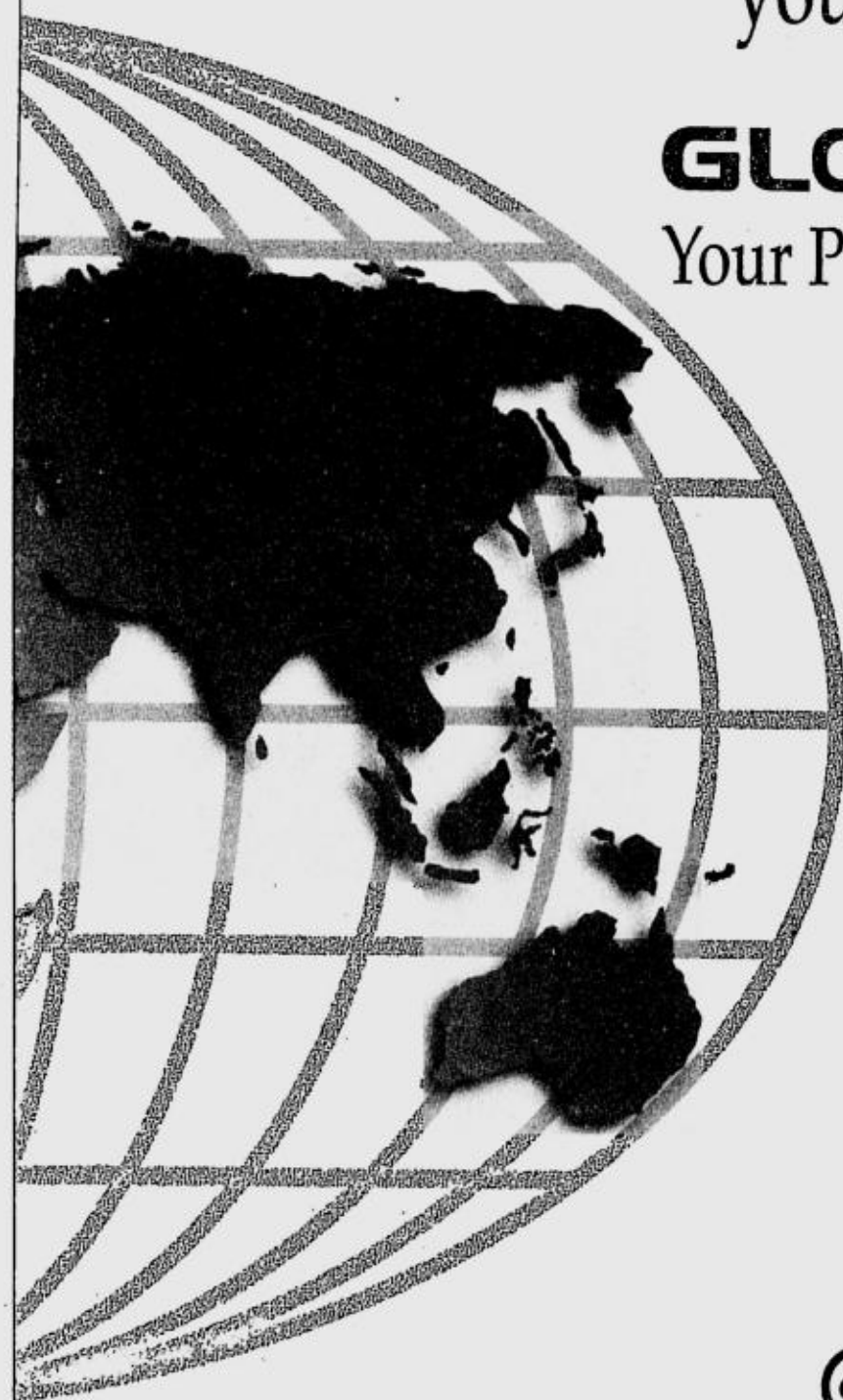
- Don't bend your ATM card.

- If you have several other ATM cards or credit cards; stack them in such a way that the magnetic strips are not facing each other.

It's very easy to care of your ATM card. Enjoy the convenience of using one to bank and even to shop. Just don't lose it.

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Metrobank Group to hold biggest bazaar yet

THE Metrobank Group, the country's largest financial conglomerate, is slated to hold its biggest shopping bazaar in the country and in time for the Christmas season. Dubbed "The Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City," the bazaar will be held at the Le Pavillion, a 1,400-square meter air-conditioned tent at the Metropolitan Park, Edsa extension corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on Nov. 16, 17 and 18.

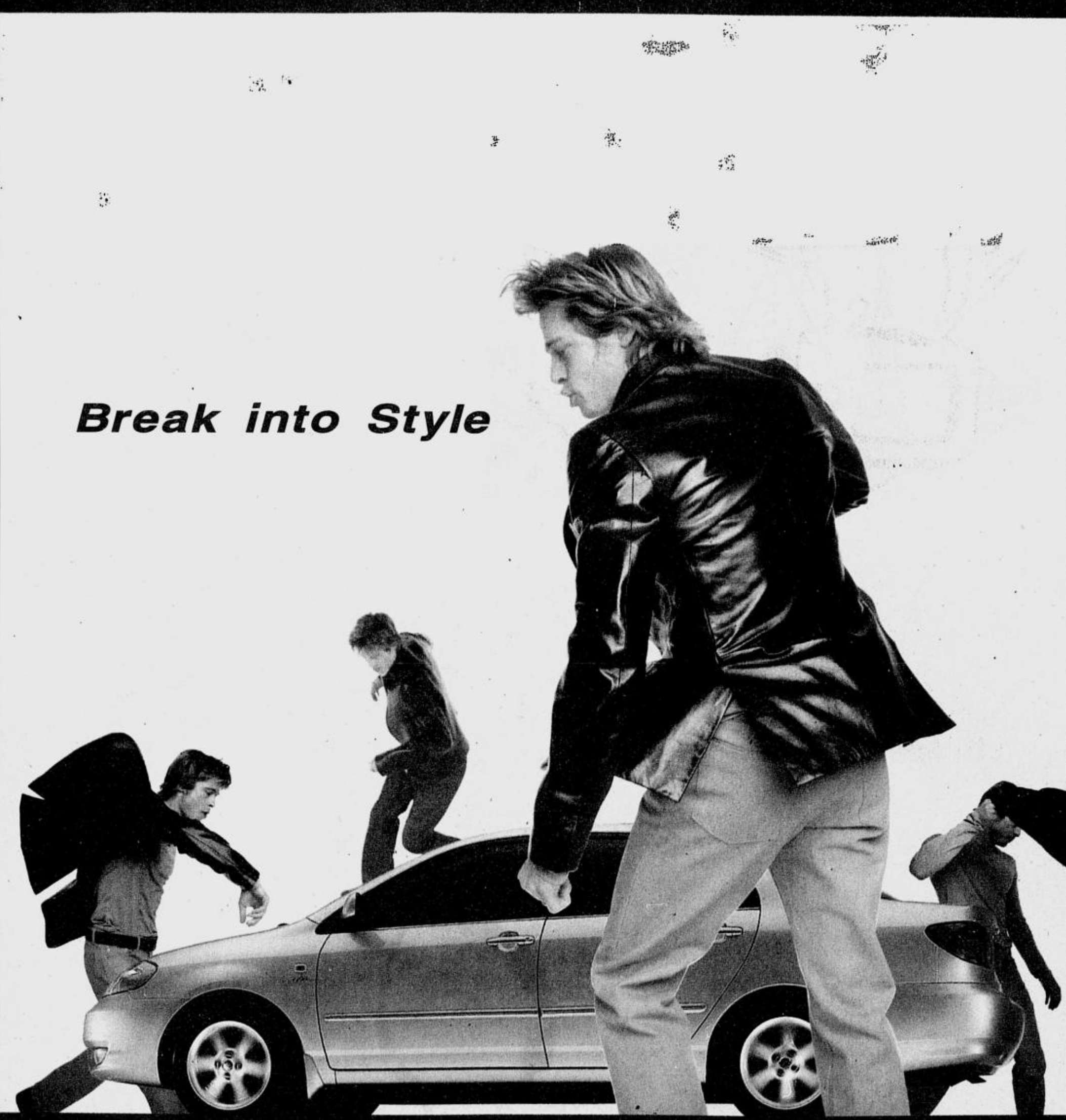
An estimated 100 merchants, offering a wide range of products, will be participating in the bazaar. This number includes big brand names selling food, gift items, toys, clothes, jewelry, porcelain items, and Christmas décor that are unique and export-quality. This is probably the only Christmas bazaar that will also sell electric appliances, computers and furniture. The Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City will give cardholders the convenience of one-stop shopping under one roof.

Purchases in the Christmas bazaar will be paid through any Metrobank credit card—Unicard, Metrobank Visa, or Metrobank MasterCard—or through prepaid cards, which may be bought in the bazaar venue. Metrobank credit cardholders have the option to pay all their purchases through a low-rate installment plan. The Metrobank Group will also offer other surprises and freebies for the bazaar shoppers.

Big discounts and other perks will also be offered during the three-day shopping event.

P A S S I O N

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BUSINESSMonday

What makes the best better than the rest

IT IS not essential to be a multinational corporation (MNC) to be a Best Employer. But as the first list of Best Employers in Asia shows, 12 of the top 20 Best Employers are MNCs, giving these organizations a narrow lead in the Best Employer stakes.

Twelve of the 20 Best Employers in Asia are regional units or subsidiaries of MNCs, which have entered Asian markets bringing with them investment capital and modern management techniques.

With the funds they have established bases, acquired assets and endured interim losses. But their progressive people practices—a range of benefits, compensation policies, training programs and other enticements—have enabled them to attract and retain the talent required to achieve long-term financial success.

But in a region where family values endure, local companies that practice modern management techniques have an additional home advantage.

Across Asia, there are successful indigenous companies that have won the hearts and minds of employees

with family-oriented benefits, policies and activities, and by making them feel part of a big happy family.

Many contented employees of Best Employers around Asia cite harmonious relationships and a family-like working environment as reasons for joining and staying with their companies.

In the course of identifying the Best Employers in the 10 countries/regions studied, the study also sought to define their common characteristics.

Overall, the study identifies the following characteristics common to the Best Employers in Asia:

Best Employers have what it takes to create business results and high performance:

- Best Employers have very engaged and committed people.
- Best Employers contribute to Asia's competitiveness and growth.
- Are more prepared for the future
- Are able to attract and retain the talent they need
- Best Employers are doing the right things to grow and support their business.

- Place a strong emphasis on the importance of culture

- Manage and drive performance

- Effectively implement appropriate pay and recognition programs

- Have benefits programs valued by employees

• Best Employers have created a culture for "the Best"

- Leaders effectively communicate the organizations' goals and objectives

- Strong relationships are leveraged for business results; employees work well with each other and their leaders

- Loyalty, dedication, strong pride and a sense of purpose are instilled in employees, and

- Employees are empowered

Prepared for the future

Best Employers plan their future by ensuring that they identify and nurture future managers from within the companies.

The majority of 90 percent say they have formal management succession procedures in place for replacing CEOs and senior managers. Conversely, only 52 percent of Other Companies in the survey have succession planning procedures in place.

Attracting and retaining talent

Best Employers fare much better than Other Companies at attracting and retaining good people.

Their employees give them solid credit for balancing employee interests, providing appropriate organizational ac-

cess, giving them clear direction and being open and honest in communications.

They foster an optimistic attitude among their staff at all levels. Asked to respond to the statement: "Our company is attracting the people it needs to accomplish its business goals," managers and senior executives at 85 percent of Best Employers either "agreed" or "strongly agreed."

Emphasizing values, culture

In every important decision, from hiring to training, and ongoing development, Best Employers are great believers in values and culture. The result is a more engaged and fulfilled workforce, with employees who feel a good fit with their organization.

The emphasis on culture begins in the early stage of an employee's career with a Best Employer. Many of these organizations—65 percent—say immersing new employees in their corporate culture is the main aim of their orientation efforts.

Asked to rank their considerations when making hiring decisions for both top management and front line staff, 25 percent of the Best Employers say they place the most emphasis on a prospective new employee's fit with the organization's culture and values.

"Culture and values" is ranked first by only 10-14 percent of Other Companies in the study.

Best Employers also treat staff fairly. They focus on developing their people and not just on reaching their financial goals. In return, staff rank these employers more highly than their counterparts at Other Companies in addressing age, gender and family status discrimination.

Performance management

Most companies overall claim to have a performance appraisal or performance management process in place. In fact, this is the case with all Best Employers and 97 percent of Other Companies.



Most companies also claim that they are passionate about their performance. But Best Employers are significantly more capable at getting real performance from their people through aligned people practices.

Leaders and managers are recognized by employees as being more effective at setting clear expectations, giving feedback and recognizing good work. They go beyond the traditional top-down performance evaluation and tend to facilitate multi-rater evaluation and performance feedback for managers and even their peers.

They also have performance management processes that succeed in helping their people perform and deliver well. Employees in 82 percent of Best Employers say their performance review assists them in focusing their work effectively in a way that helps the organization achieve its goals.

Fair pay and recognition

The effective implementation of pay and performance principles is highlighted as one of the most distinguishing factors between Best Employers and Other Companies.

The majority of employees in 72

percent of Best Employers feel that they are fairly paid, while employees in just under half of the Other Companies feel their contributions are not fairly recognized.

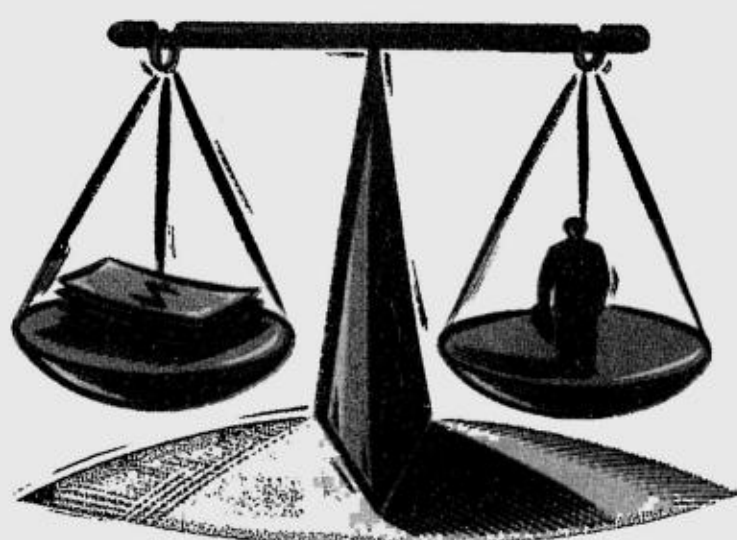
Best Employers are also better at communicating their reward philosophies to employees. They succeed in recognizing and rewarding employees in ways that help produce their desired business results.

Open and accessible leaders

Best Employers share information with employees more regularly and more frequently than Other Companies, in areas of business goals and objectives, operating results, branding/market positioning and employee satisfaction.

Their CEOs spend more time than others communicating the company's business strategy and goals.

CEOs from all companies claim that employees have a good grasp of the company's goals and strategy. When the same question is posed to employees, however, those of Best Employers validate the claim, while employees at a quarter of Other Companies do not understand their employers' goals.



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LEO MAGNO, Editor

Lord of the Ringing Tones

SO began the prophecy, the beginnings of which were made manifest on Sept. 29, 2001, when eight members of the Fellowship of the Toilet Paper embarked on a journey to Boracay, an island off the southern tip of Luzon in the province of Aklan. Boracay wasn't exactly Middle-Earth, but it was in the middle of the sea.

Eight defiant souls comprised the Fellowship. They went through rigorous mental and physical tests and were selected from hundreds who

signed up for the Philips Survival Challenge. Their quest: To survive further grueling tests on Boracay from Sept. 29 to Oct. 4, and to try to outlast the Philips Xenium 9@9, the company's latest WAP cellular phone. The prize: A trip for two to Africa; P100,000 in cash; the honor of being called the ultimate survivor of the Philips Survival Challenge; and the unofficial title of The Lord of the Philips Ringing Tones. In the process of determining who would be the sole sur-

ivor, the Fellowship had to use the Philips Xenium as they went through the tests.

The Fellowship ventured forth into the darkness of what Boracay locals called the Spider House—an abandoned, rickety shack where raven-colored shards of the night frolicked with eight-legged creatures. 'Twas much like Shelob's Lair deep in the Mountains of Shadow. To get to the Spider House, the Company had to hike through the rocky edge of mountains sandwiched

to the left by the waves on the western side of the island.

They carried with them only 10 articles of clothing for the duration of their five-day quest. They were bereft of luxuries. Of money. Of soap. Of toothbrush. They shared the cold embrace of darkness. And one roll of toilet paper.

The Fellowship was composed of Leo Magno, a newspaper editor, dotcom executive and father-to-be; Abbie Javellana, a doctor who wants

LORD/p.D4



Is the Xenium 9@9 a cellular phone for survivors?

BY LEO MAGNO

THE CONSUMER Communications division of Philips wanted a novel way of introducing the Philips Xenium 9@9 to the market, and they hit the button with the "Philips Survival Challenge: Defy the Ordinary." Marketing-wise, at least.

Let's face it: The sheer popularity of the "Survivor" series of CBS is enough to draw attention to a similar local event, where eight Filipino survivors were thrown into the island of Boracay to face physical and mental challenges from Sept. 29 to Oct. 4. The prize: A trip for two to Africa plus P100,000 in cash. Hundreds of Colby and Tina wannabes signed up for the event, and this figure was whittled down to 80 for the qualifying rounds at the Rockwell-Tenpi held on Sept. 22. After a 2-km run, wall climbing, IQ test, character test and an obstacle course, eight people were chosen to participate in the challenge.

This writer was one of them. Let me now tell you how the product—the Xenium 9@9—fared in relation to the entire challenge.

Let's forget about the fact that most of the challenges we faced were urban in nature (mountain biking, wall climbing, a paintball challenge) and physical instead of mental (the text-based quiz, sand castle contest and question-and-answer portions were reserved for the final four qualifiers). I even thought we would be made to hunt or fish on our own. Let's even skip the discussion of safety and organizational questions for a later article which you'll also read here in the INQUIRER. Since this is an IT section, let's talk first about the phone. The juicier stuff will appear later in another section.

Philips stressed all throughout the event that the participants were challenged to outlast the Xenium. We were even asked to bring our own phones and see how long they would last. In this regard, the Xenium passes with flying colors. As you are reading this article, the Xenium I have been using since Sept. 29 is still charged. My Nokia went dead three days after the event started. The Xenium's vaunted battery life allows you to talk five hours straight, with 14 days standby time. In real-world terms—with volume on high, all lights on, vibrator mode on and using the Xenium as my primary phone—I was able to use it for 10 days straight without recharging.

This WAP phone is also very small and light, weighing in at only 95 grams, about half the weight of my old Nokia 7110, which is also a WAP phone.

The Xenium also has a user-friendly interface, almost as user-friendly as that of the Nokia. The carousel (a loop of icons in the display which shows you the menus) and the pilot key (a toggle and navigational key on the left hand side of the phone to access the carousel) makes it easier to go through the phone's features. However, some shortcuts which you can do with the all-too-familiar Nokia are absent. It also doesn't help the Dutch Philips that seven out of 10 phones in the Philippines are Nokias, which makes many Filipinos familiar with the operating system and menus of the Finnish phone. In personal computer terms, it's like Linux trying to break into a predominantly Windows-based market.

The Xenium is also voice-activated: You can dial and operate the phone via spoken command using the hands-free set. This did not fare well during the paintball challenge in Boracay, however, since the phone had to hang somewhere in our clothing while carrying a gun, and the very rugged nature of the game led the phone to some damage. For example, my hands-free set got lost—caught up in a branch somewhere—and the unit of my teammate, Illac Diaz, actually went dead after it hit a rock while the phone was in his pocket.

But that's the downside of the inclusion of the Xenium in that particular game. The phone may be tough, but it is not ruggedized. We were constantly told to protect the phone, not to wet it or bang it up, but how could you if you were to use it in a rugged paintball challenge?

Still, the long battery life and the voice activation feature of the Xenium are two primary draws. Add to this the good antenna technology which lends the phone strong signals most of the time. Some of the Philips phone technologies are actually licensed out by the company to other cell

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Is the Xenium 9@9 a cellular phone ...

(From page D1)

phone manufacturers, so chances are there's a Philips component somewhere in your non-Philips phone.

A major drawback of the Xenium is the fact that you can only store names and numbers in the SIM card. It has no internal phone memory. For those who are using their cell phone 24x7 as both an address book and communications device, this is a big turn-off.

Another item in the improvement department which Philips might want to consider is the tactile response of the phone. The pilot key and keypad sometimes don't respond immediately when depressed, although you could hear a keypad tone which is supposed to mean that your finger-activated command or input is supposed to have been received by the unit already.

Generally, the Xenium 9@9 is a good phone to have, and although the Philips Survival Challenge was a good marketing venue for the phone to be introduced, one might wonder if the inclusion of the

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phone in harsh competitive conditions was a wise idea.

Also, the challenge itself was still "urbanized" in the sense that the eight survivors were subjected to physical challenges which urban folks do. Instead of becoming true survivors facing the elements and facing each other in a battle of wits and politics, I feel like we've become survivor wannabes instead.

In the end, however, the goal of Philips was achieved in the sense that they wanted their target market—a small sample of

JEERS

Memory: No name storage in phone, names are stored in SIM

Slippery: Casing is too sleek, sometimes slips out of your hand

Pilot key and keypad sometimes don't respond immediately when depressed.

consumers represented by the eight survivors—to try the product themselves and relay to the general market and to the consumers at large how the product performed.

However, the contrast between the high-tech nature of the phone and the urban games vis-à-vis the natural and elemental challenges being offered by the island is a bit incongruous. The challenge could have been better off in an urban setting and urban scenarios (i.e., office work), perhaps?

USER-GENERATED CONTENT

One ring of sites to rule them all

BY LEO MAGNO

IN 1937, Earth got its first glimpse of Middle-Earth when J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" was released. Almost two decades later when "The Return of the King"—the final volume in the "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy—was published in 1955, the name Tolkien was cemented in the literary world as belonging to one of the most imaginative writers of the century.

More than 60 years and millions of copies later, Tolkien's beloved story about The One Ring is about to hit the big screen, with the first installment—"The Fellowship of the Ring"—

set for release in the United States on Dec. 19. "The Two Towers" is scheduled for release in Christmas, 2002, and a year later "The Return of the King" will be shown. Shooting for the three films was done simultaneously, and has already been completed in New Zealand.

Tolkien fans have been casting this movie in their minds for the last 20 years, and have set up many websites to make sure the movie comes out right. A mixture of Tolkien purists and revisionists are now clashing online to make sure Peter Jackson—the writer-director behind the \$270-million film adaptation of the Tolkien classic—does justice to the book. And, surprisingly, Jackson and the production have been listening to the online comments, ranging from their disapproval of Liv Tyler playing the role of elf princess Arwen to the argument of whether or not the Balrog in the Mines of Moria should have wings.

Computer geeks are very much in the thick of these online discussions. Many see Tolkien's work as a recreation of reality, and, computer geeks being part of a general population which wants to reprogram reality or escape into their own version of the world, they have been rabid members of an online community which is influencing Hollywood in the way "The Lord of the Rings" should be shown onscreen. Never before has any movie listened intently and at times even cowed by objections from online fans—the same fans who have read the book dozens of times, the same people who analyze Tolkien's invented languages, rune writings, genealogies, maps and Elvish songs.

And why shouldn't Hollywood listen to these online communities? The success of the film will be based on the approval of the book's legions of fans. "The Lord of the Rings" has the potential to become bigger than George Lucas' "Star Wars" series, so the last thing Hollywood producers want to do is to alienate Tolkien enthusiasts.

For example, TheOneRing.Net or TORN (<http://www.theonering.net/>) holds regular chat sessions to discuss in detail the Tolkien characters (yesterday, Oct. 7, the subject of their chat discussion was Aragorn son of Arathorn, also known as the Dunadan or Strider or Elessar the Healer). The site also contains spy reports on the filming and post-production of the movie, tips on where to get replicas of weapons used in the Tolkien books (would you believe you can get Frodo's glowing knife-sword—Sting—at amazon.com?) and most other stuff contributed by Tolkien fans.



Ringbearer.org (<http://www3.ringbearer.org/>), created in 1995, is another good Tolkien site where you can update yourself on what's happening to the movie's production. It contains message boards, interviews of the cast, dozens of links, an extensive image gallery and places where you can buy Tolkien collectibles. Ringbearer.org has been recognized by The Wall Street Journal, CNN, Entertainment Weekly, Newsweek, The Hollywood Reporter and Daily Variety as the leading fan site for information on "The Lord of the Rings" movies.



Also cited by The Wall Street Journal and Movieline.com is TolkienMovies.com (<http://www.tolkien-movies.com/>), created in 1998. It even has a countdown—p to the last minute—to the play date of the movie from New Line Cinema. This site has tons of trivia and rumors about the production, and, like the first two sites mentioned earlier, generates content from the fans themselves.



This goes to show that if you have a strong online community, user-generated content can take your website a long way, and with the right numbers, you can even influence and sway the minds of Hollywood movie moguls.

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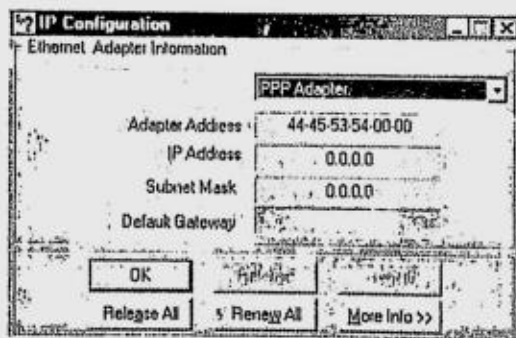
Find out what your IP address is

BY JERRY LIAO

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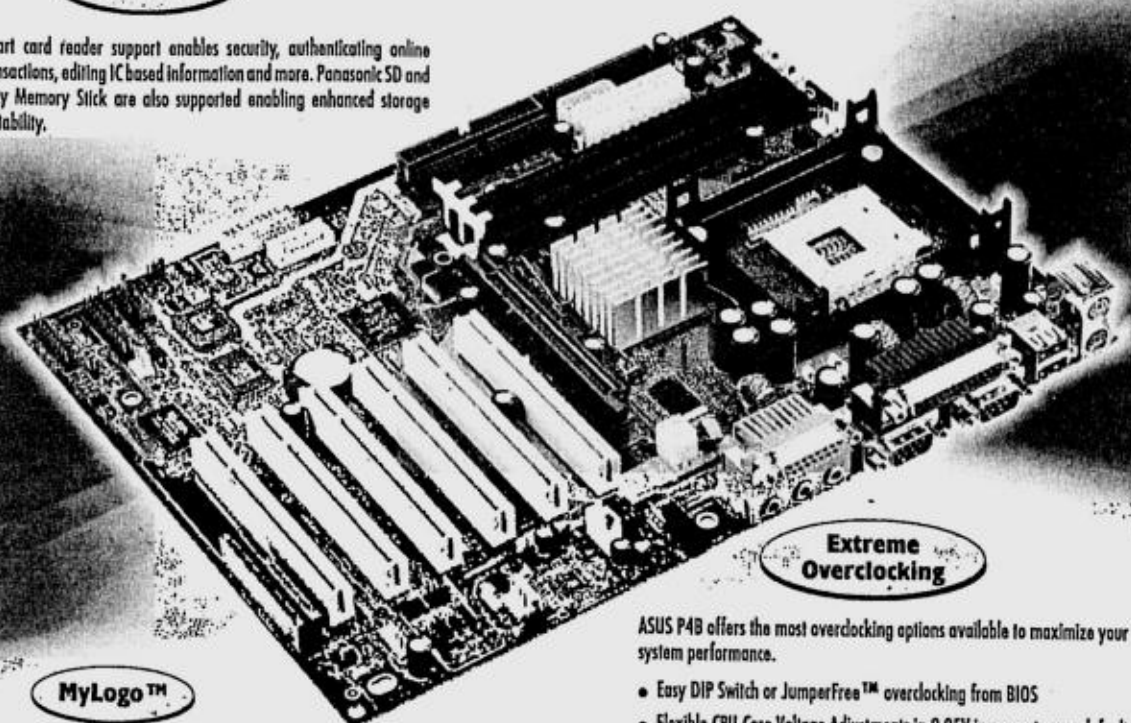
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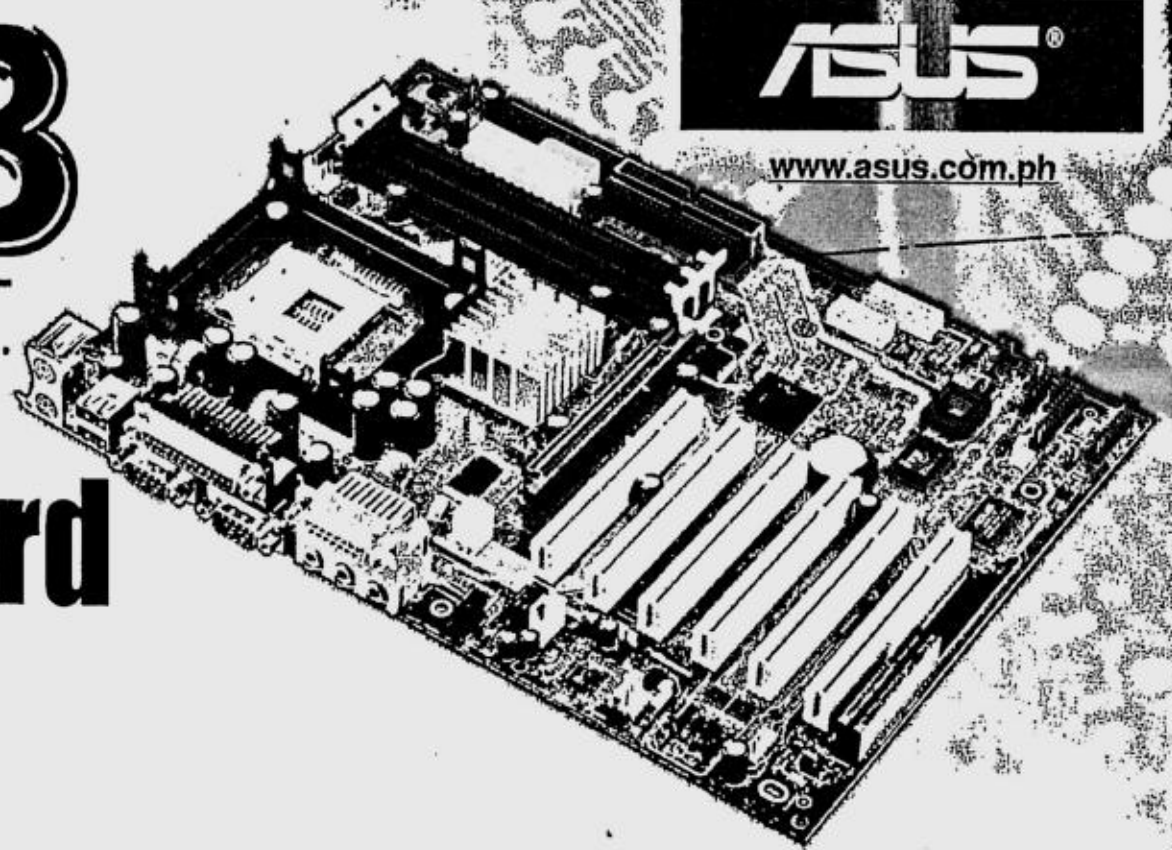
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The Lord of the Ringing Tones

(From page D1)

to put up her own karaoke bar; Lala Diaz, a senior media planner and former beauty queen; Vikki Aquino, a fitness center manager who always celebrates New Year in Boracay; Jac Colmenares, a 21-year-old events organizer and former triathlete (she would later be designated The Lady Keeper of the Toilet Paper); Marc Leviste, an entrepreneur and aspiring actor and politician; Alain Lo, a mechanical engineer and 4x4 enthusiast; and Illac Diaz, a ramp model and entrepreneur.

The Company's first night at the Spider House saw them being immersed in darkness, which fled only at the presence of light from the cameras and equipment of Game Plan which covered the Survival Challenge. The first rolls of thunder came shortly after twilight, and lightning pierced the dark and approached the shore, as it were, like a gigantic wizard's fingers dipping into the sea. They rested, for they knew they would encounter their first test come sunrise.

First test

Morning came like a slap of sunlight on their faces. They went round the side of the rocky hill, over some rocks and trees to get to the edge of the water. Bath consisted of a swim in salt water, the same water they used to gargle and clean their teeth, with fingers doubling as toothbrush and cotton buds.

Through drawing of lots, the Company was divided in two groups. The first consisted of Marc, Alain, Vikki and Jac. They called themselves Team Acay. The other was comprised of Illac, Leo, Abbie and Lala. They called themselves the Kuchi Kuchi Tribe. They then hiked Eastward for their first test in the Philips Survival Challenge.

The first challenge saw Team Acay and Kuchi Kuchi maximizing the use of their Philips Xenium 9@9 phones.

It entailed the use of short message service (SMS), or texting, in a relay race which involved cryptic clues. Four messages written on paper were hidden in the woods. The first team member was sent into the field while his or her teammates waited at the starting point. That first man was sent a text message with a cryptic clue, and he was tasked to follow that clue and find the next one written on paper and hidden in the woods. Once that next clue was found, the first man then sent the clue via SMS to the second team member who then went on a separate track on another quest, and so on. Whoever finished the quest in the shortest span of time got the winning points, while the losers got none.

The Company found that some of the trails were difficult while others were downright easy, posing no challenge at all. Others had to go through cliffs, climb up coconut trees and cross swamps. Others had to just take a leisurely walk down a trail—much like Tom Bombadil would merrily run through the woods while singing—and lo and behold! The clue would appear from the thicket so close that it could have bitten them on the behind like a rabid orc. At the end of the day, the Kuchi Kuchi Tribe outpaced Team Acay by almost two hours. They got the first points of the quest.

The Company was low on energy after the day's event, and they again hiked back to the Spider House for shelter. They walked down the beach of Boracay, passing by resorts and bars, realizing that they were not allowed to enjoy any of the island's pleasures. Instead, they went ever Westward, going forth to the land of Shelob where the spiders held their tryst with the dark.

Soon, the Fellowship was embraced anew by the cold, and was forced to give audience to the monotonous concert of croaking lizards and fornicating bats in the nearby trees.

The wall

The next day's tests proved more physically challenging for the Fellowship. The first consisted of a three-pronged relay on separate tracks. One is a 6.5-km mountain bike race, followed by an uphill hike undertaken by two members of the team, and finally, a beach run where the last team member was tasked to run about 1.5 km in thigh-deep water. Again, the Xenium was inserted into the picture, with each team member in each leg being required to signal the next teammate to start his or her own run via text message. To ensure that each leg was finished, the specific message that signaled the next team member to start the next race was given at the finish line of each leg.

Team Acay won the relay race. They also won the next test, which was the wall-climbing event.

The wall was a 44-foot high structure divided into easy and difficult segments. The easy one was a flat wall, while the difficult course had two overhangs. And while the first two tests

which the Fellowship underwent utilized the text messaging feature of the Xenium, the wall climbing event featured the alarm clock tool of the phone. Each team was given one hour—15 minutes per team member—to climb either wall. The easy wall was good for one point per successful climb, while the difficult one carried a five-point prize. The alarm clock of the next team member's phone was the signal for him or her to climb.

Team Acay—climbing the wall as if they had the sticky, webbed hands and feet of Gollum—garnered 17 points, while the Kuchi Kuchi Tribe had 13.

At the end of the second day, tired limbs took the Fellowship back to its resting place in the West where the Shadows lie. The roll of toilet paper—now half diminished—urged them to go inexorably forward and complete their quest.

Rumble in the jungle

By the third day, fatigue and lack of food started taking its toll on the Company. The eight members of the Fellowship started feeling the exhaustion flow through their limbs. Unfortunately for them, they did not have in supply lembas, that nourishing wafer produced by the elves of Lothlorien. Nevertheless, it was their lot to rise anew in the morning and proceed with their quest to determine who would be declared the Lord of the Ringing Tones. And so once again they headed East.

After a 30-minute hike they came upon their next challenge: A paintball competition courtesy of Gotcha! The two teams were supposed to fire at each other with gas-powered rifles shooting paintball as bullets.

Each team would take turns defending the flag, with points for each successful defense or steal of the enemy's flag. The Company was taken deeper into the woods where the competition was set up.

Here the Fellowship got its worse beating of the entire quest—dodging paintball, crawling through rocky terrain, running through branches, falling on rocks and slipping on mud. Not even the hardness of Gimli the son of Gloin would have prevented any injury, especially the one sustained by Alain of Team Acay. Alain fell through the roof of an abandoned lavatory in the middle of the fray, resulting in a scalp wound that needed four stitches to close. In the absence of Aragorn—Elessar the healer—Alain was instead taken to the nearest hospital.

Meanwhile, the Fellowship hooked up their hands-free devices onto the Philips Xenium and used the phone's voice dialing feature to communicate with each other. By speaking a name into the phone, it would dial that person's number while members of the Fellowship were holding their guns. At least, that was the idea. Much like Sauron using the Palantir to know where his foes were.

At the end of the day Team Acay and the Kuchi Kuchi Tribe decided to declare the match even after both teams put up one successful defense and one stolen flag each. The team scores parted ways, however, after the individual paintball competition which saw Vikki making one kill for an extra five points, Marc with another kill for five points and Illac with two kills for 10 extra points.

And, as before, the Company took their respite for the night, trudging down the road to the West with heavy hearts as if they were taking the Paths of the Dead.

Breaking of the Fellowship

The next day saw the Company parting ways, with four people moving closer to the final quest, much like Frodo and Sam journeying on to Mordor and Orodruin, the Cracks of Doom. The other four were eliminated after tallying the points which the eight had garnered in the last three days. Those who moved on were Marc, Alain, Vikki and Jac.

These four were then subjected to another test, one which required them to answer questions via text messages. It required them to know the Xenium well, and be on top of current events. They also had GlobeXplore at their disposal should they require information that can be delivered to them via their phones.

At the end of this test, Marc, Alain and Vikki advanced to the next round after Jac—The Lady Keeper of the Toilet Paper—finished last. The next round saw Alain being eliminated as well, leaving Marc and Vikki in contention for the right to be called the sole survivor of the Philips Survival Challenge.

At this point, the prophecy—which saw eight souls being gathered together by the inexorable pull of one roll of toilet paper—had been fulfilled. After spending batless nights at the Spider House and listening to fornicating bats and moaning lizards, the Fellowship had been broken, and Marc and Vikki will contest the right to be called the Lord of the Ringing Tones. They were the two in the Fellowship who hung on during the challenge, and hang on they did with the tenacity of a Balrog in heat.

On Friday, Oct. 12, a panel of judges will decide the fates of Marc and Vikki, and one of them will be declared the sole survivor of the Philips Xenium Survival Challenge.

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Makeup as art



Makeup supremo Patrick Rosas and lens magician Jun de Leon recast the looks of over 100 not-so-clueless celebrities in what should be the makeover of the new century

Story on page E4

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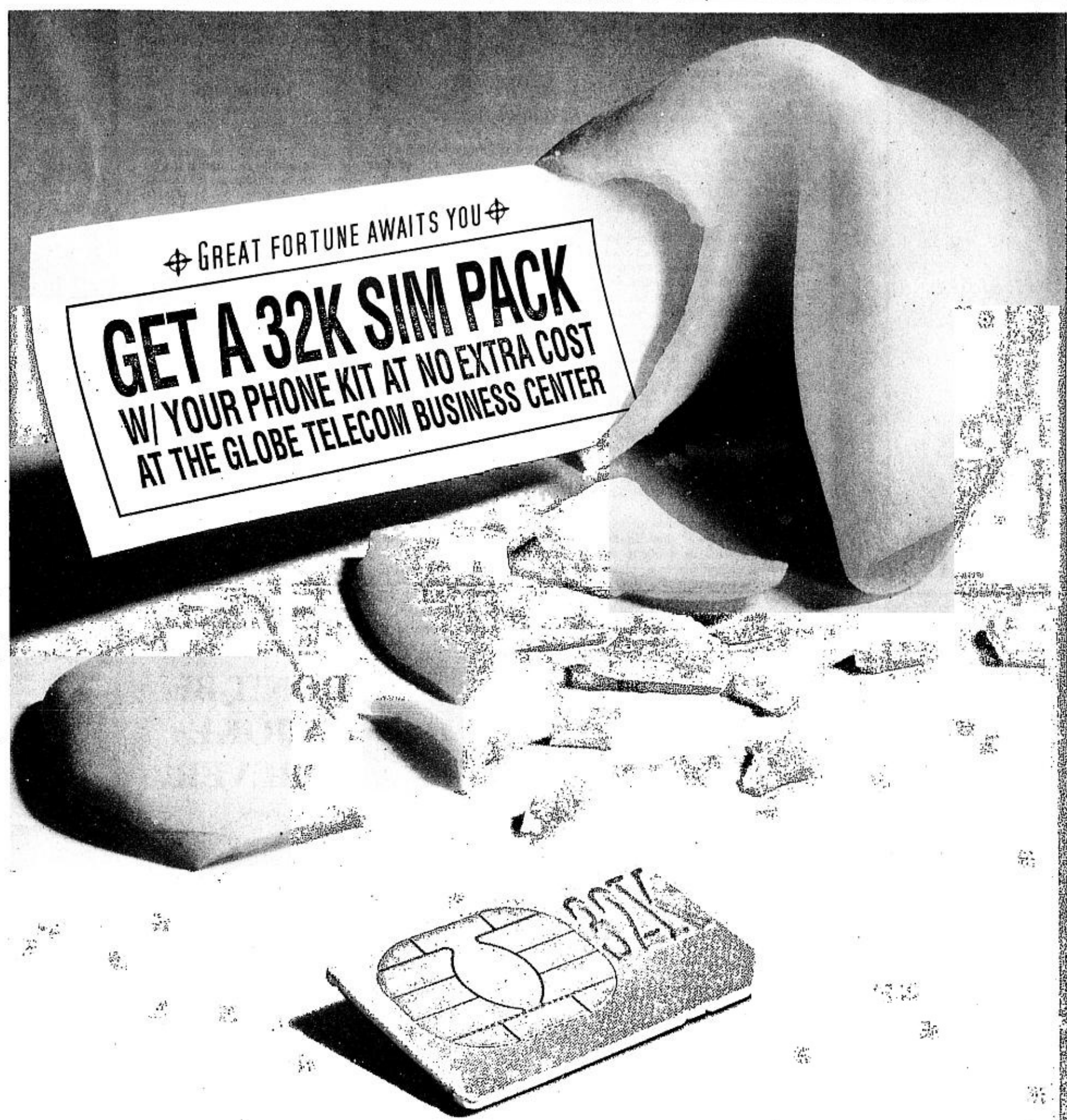
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ENTERED through a covered bridge crossing a mountain stream, majestic Paro dzong was first constructed in 1646, and reconstructed after it was burned in 1907.

PHOTOS BY
KEZANG UDEM PENJOR

ARCHITECTURE adapts to the natural terrain at the multilevel Tongsa dzong that slopes downward in the Central Bhutan valley.



Bhutan, the magic kingdom

IN MY years of doing consultancy work for Unesco, World Tourism Organization and other international agencies, there weren't many Bhutanese to cross paths with simply because there were so few of them outside of their under-populated country. The few that I had met were gentle souls who smiled a lot, men who wore something that looked like kilts. They got my curiosity going and they proudly introduced the cultural heritage of their country with great enthusiasm.

To my surprise, the most enthusiastic Bhutanese I met was right here in Manila. Kezang Udem Penjor, a Manila resident, is a tireless crusader who passionately introduces her native country to people that she meets. I must say that her crusade works. She gave me such a fascination for her country that I had to go there to see it for myself.

Travel essayist Pico Iyer writes about Bhutan, a country about the size of Switzerland with a population of under a million: "Bhutan has long been celebrated as perhaps the ultimate Lonely Place in the world, a snow-capped Buddhist kingdom tucked away in the depths of the High Himalayas. For years at a time, nothing is heard of the secret land of archers."

"The most singular fact of all," continues Iyer, "was that Bhutan had never opened its doors to the world. Cut off entirely from planet Earth until a generation ago, Bhutan had always been an area so remote that it hardly seemed to appear on any maps. Taken over—and united

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon



—by a fleeing Tibetan lama in 1616, it had never enjoyed any contact with reality until, in the early 19th century, the British government in India had begun annexing it. After the Bhutanese retaliated, rejecting ultimatum after ultimatum, they were finally given some tribute in return for the territory and, in 1907, with the blessing of the British, they found themselves with a hereditary monarchy, ruled by King Ugyen Wangchuk (great-grandfather of the present king)."

Bhutan is principally an agricultural country with little industry. The pastoral landscape has a beauty and serenity rarely seen in the industrialized world: houses with brightly decorated door and window frames with shingled roofs, a patchwork of green paddy fields, forests of oak, covered bridges, fences of intricately woven bamboo.

The landscape combines natural and spiritual beauty. It shows that man and nature have worked out a peaceful coexistence.

Chortens (commemorative monuments) dot the landscape. Prayer flags flutter in the wind. Prayer wheels turned by fast-moving water of mountain streams combine na-

ture and spirit. Monasteries seem everywhere. Buddhism underpins life in Bhutan. It is the only country in the world where the Tantric form of Mahayana Buddhism is the official state religion.

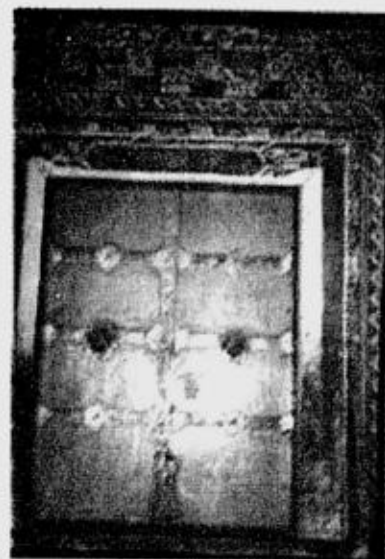
Consecrated

A *chorten* is a consecrated monument that represents Buddha's mind. It is erected in memory of an eminent lama or to ward off evil spirits from places normally considered dangerous such as crossroads, bridges and mountain passes. Consecrated religious structures, *chorten* are of three types.

The first is a whitewashed bell-shaped stone structure modeled after the *chorten* of Bodnath in Nepal. The second type consists of smaller structures built in stone that follow the Tibetan style, usually protected by a wooden superstructure. The simplest type is square, covered by a pyramidal roof, with the upper part just below the roof decorated by a red stripe.

Bhutanese architecture is an adaptation of Tibetan architecture. As in Tibet, the whitewashed walls of fortresses slope inward, with windows increasing in size in the upper stories. Wood is widely used and until recently, no nails were used in construction at all. Windows are characterized by trilobed crossbars at the top and by complicated lintels with symbolic meanings that are painted in floral or geometric designs. Because of heavy snow, Bhutanese roofs are steeply pitched, covered in shingles that are held in place with heavy stones.

Lhakhang (temples) are small, one-story buildings of modest design that



TYPICAL of Bhutanese doors, the frames of the entrance to Gangtey Monastery are highly polychromed with traditional symbolism.

are grouped around a courtyard. They differ from ordinary houses by the red band painted on the upper part of their walls and an ornament of gilded copper on the roof. The interior is covered with intricately painted walls, divided by pillars into an antechamber and the sanctuary proper. Some *lhakhang* are over a century old.

The *dzong* (fortress) is the most remarkable piece of Bhutanese architecture. They are constructed at strategic points, contain both the regional monastic communities as well as the administrative offices of the local district government. The solidity and elegance of the sloping walls, the richly detailed woodwork and the high roof give the *dzong* its distinctive appearance.

The basic plan of the *dzong* consists of a central tower built in the middle of a courtyard. Monk's cells and administrative offices back up against the walls that surround the *dzong*. *Dzongs* follow the terrain that they are constructed on, so courtyards and buildings are often constructed at different levels to correspond to the existing slopes.

Massive

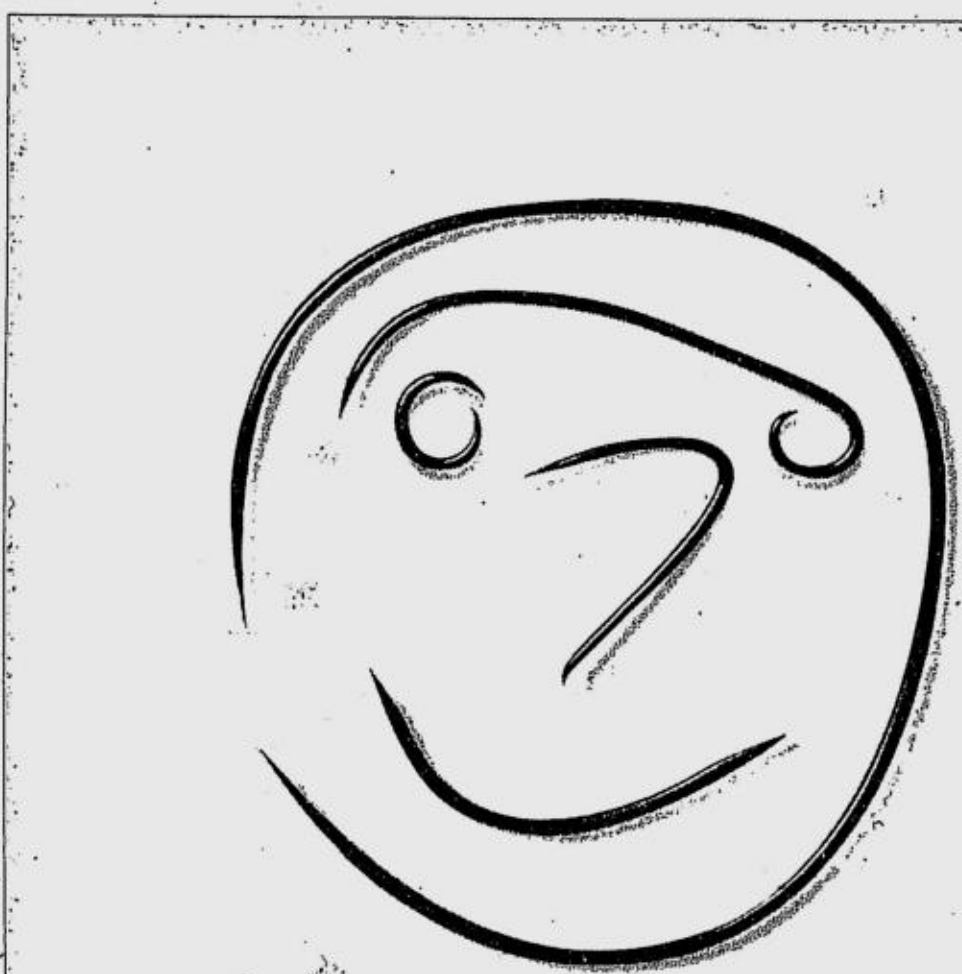
Of Tongsa dzong, Iyer writes "The central *dzong* in Bhutan, however—and the last word in Bhutanese vigilance—is the massive fortification at Tongsa, set in the very heart of the country, bestriding the path that was once the country's only road and looking out over valley after valley after receding valley, all the way to the distant snowcaps. Tongsa dzong is less a building than a whole town unto itself, courtyard leading to quadrangle, quadrangle to passageway, rating every last detail of daily life. Burgundy robes were laid out on the sun-baked stone to dry. Monks polished incense holders on the whitened terraces. *Gaylons*, or young novices, went back and forth, hoisting cumbersome buckets of water."

Dzongs, temples and residences of the royalty are built of stone. Village houses are built of rammed earth, stone, or woven bamboo matting. Roofs are traditionally flat and are used for drying vegetables or meat, or storing hay for the winter. Most houses open to a courtyard, the location for a variety of daily activities. The architecture of Bhutanese villages shows a remarkable unity of material and form.

The closest I have been to something similar to the Bhutanese landscape is being at the foothills of the Tibetan Plateau in Sichuan Province (southwest China). It is a magnificent alpine landscape of snow-capped mountain peaks that backdrop crystalline lakes feeding into waterfalls that roar into streams of fast-moving water. Beneath the high slopes, fields of green grass roll. There is hardly anyone in sight.

Similar to what I picture the Bhutanese landscape to be, the Tibetan landscape is also dotted with Buddhist temples, *chortens*, prayer flags and water wheels. Rituals and myths give life to the different sacred spots in the landscape. The natural and cultural elements of the landscape come together with such a strong unity that they establish a deep feeling of peace that is difficult to find anywhere else in the globe.

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YOUNG Buddhist monks in saffron robes look out from a colorful window in Lungtsi Monastery.

UP Interior Design mounts photo exhibit

BATCH 2002 of the Bachelor of Interior Design of the University of the Philippines-Diliman is holding the photo exhibit "Hatid: Galing Tulong Buhay" until Oct. 11 at the Bridge of SM Megamall.

The exhibit documents the batch's works with indigent institutions. Departing from the usual showcase of mock-up interiors of most graduating interior design students, the UP-BID seniors volunteered their design services to humanitarian projects and government institutions. They collaborated with

Habitat for Humanity in Pinugay, Rizal in the creation of two model units. They also produced a space-planning and design manual.

The Infirmary of Golden Acres, an elderly care facility in Bago Bantay, QC, was renovated to cope with the need for storage, maximize use of space and update worn finishes.

The Reception and Study Center for Children in Bago Bantay, QC was renovated to optimize efficiency and foster a positive environment for children.

ARCHITECT Maria Cristina Valera-Turalba is a recent recipient of the Outstanding Women in Construction Award. The Women in Construction Foundation Inc. honored her with the distinction for her outstanding accomplishments and significant contributions to the advancement of the country's construction industry and her ability to keep the balance between career, social and personal obligations.





NORHATA M. Alonto, Frank Everisto, Eki Cardenas and Ambassador Inlge of Nigeria

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

YUSEF M. Al-Wehailbi, Abdulla S. Al-Subalhi and Fahad Al-Msalbech



AMBASSADOR Salem Al-Ghamdi, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Namlah and Narda Camacho



EDUARDO Ermita

Toasting Saudi-Philippine labor relations

THERE are 800,000 Filipino overseas workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, so it was only proper that the "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques," King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud send his minister of labor, Dr. Ali Bin Ibrahim Al-Namlah, to the Philippines on the invitation of our Department of Labor.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador Salem Al-Ghamdi tendered a sit-down dinner at the Mandarin in the minister's honor and the most intriguing part was Speaker Joe de V being buttonholed all over the place by minor functionaries. Good thing the man is used to being harassed. Baby Arenas, whose devotion to Padre Pio is well known, had a couple of unprintable things to say about somebody's sister who is now seeking a position at the Department of Foreign Affairs that doesn't exist. Madame Baby claims she can write wonderful letters to the papers when her ire is aroused. Eki Cardenas, one of Erap's few loyal men, is still loyal and helping his former boss' out while Narda Camacho (she used to be known as the Garbage Queen but is now referred to as the Nanay ng Crush ng Bayan) is upset yet again about incinerators.

In the meantime, Ambassador Al-Ghamdi was very apologetic about arriving late and not being able to change

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

into formal clothes, which wasn't his fault at all, but even the best of intentions cannot control uncontrollable driving conditions in this part of the world (read: traffic).

The ladies of the Catholic Women's Club under president Lulu Castañeda, chair of special events Tess Castro and co-chair Karen Macasaet, are pleased as punch having raised P900,000 from their annual fund-raising ball. Fair enough, since they had to rehearse for three months for the much-applauded dance numbers choreographed by dance master Buljng Danao. While this might seem like a lot, the various charities (including Elsie Gaches Village) are still in need of help so make sure you make your presence felt at the "Mesa Y Jardin" Christmas bazaars at the Inter-Con and the Pen on Oct. 14 and 21.



SPEAKER Jose de Venecia



AMBASSADOR Ahmad Rezk and Marixi Prieto



CATHOLIC Women's Club president Lulu Castañeda, Tess Castro and Karen Macasaet



BELGIUM Ambassador Arnold van Remoortele



ROGER Saldo Chua, Mary Chua and Sylvia van Remoortele



MERCY Tuason and Ditas Fernandez

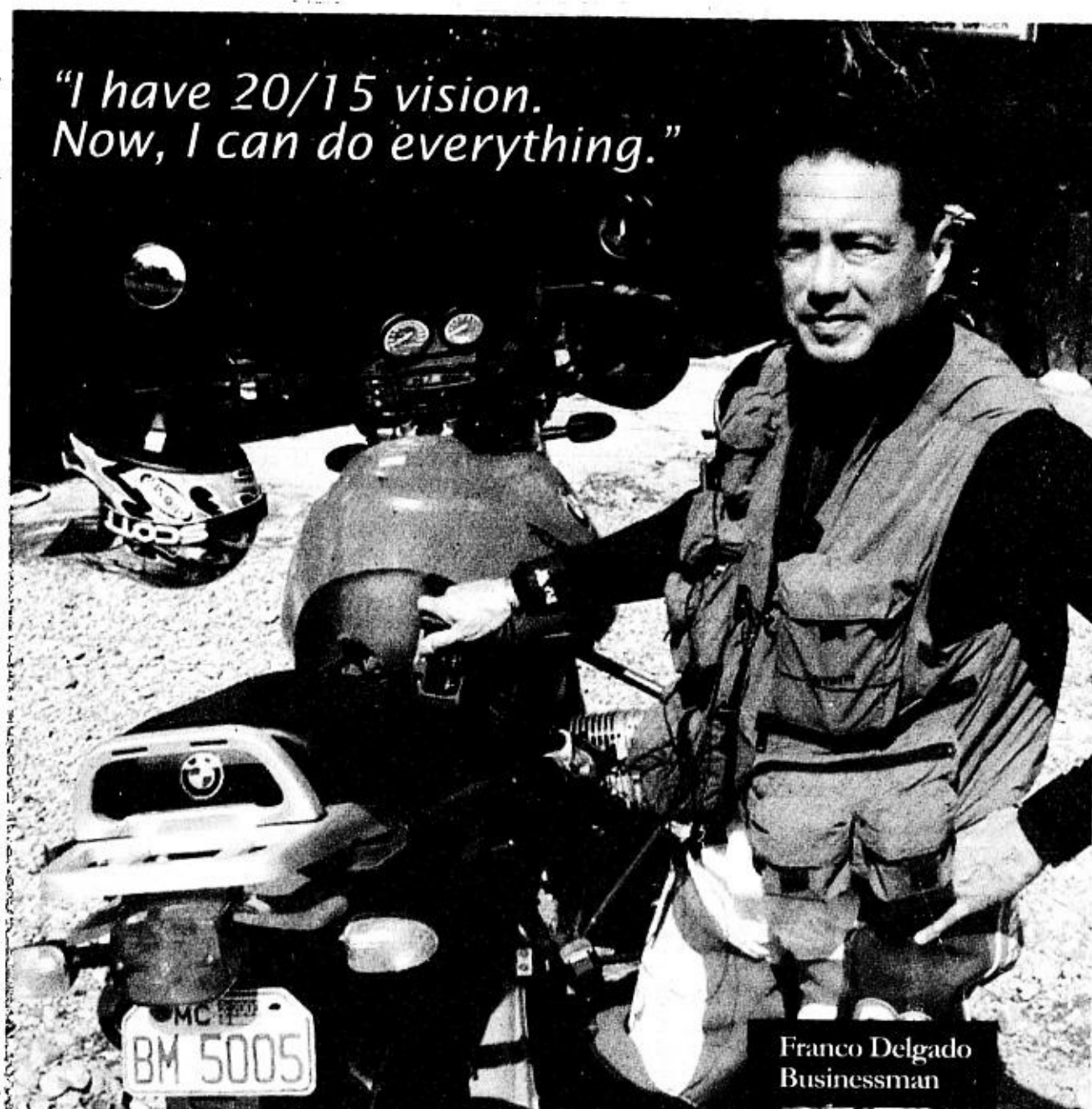
French Kiss

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For one kiss

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Businessman

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Makeup as art

BY JAMES P. ONG

PATRICK Rosas has been living with pressure in Manila since 1996, running from weddings to society parties to fashion shows, in the service of Filipino beauty. But years of fixing the hair and faces of the most demanding socialites and intriguing models seem not to have prepared him for the pressure that goes with "Patrick Rosas Images," a coffee-table book featuring over a hundred subjects, as photographed, in a background of white, by Rosas' collaborator, Jun de Leon.

"It's like I'm having my own [fashion] show," Rosas joked last week, when we saw him in Makati, busy ironing out the final details of his book and its launch. As late as Friday, he had to reschedule a night of giving out invitations for a prior commitment to Inno Sotto's fashion show yesterday.

Brides and Manila's glamorous bunch swear by Rosas' magic touch. His signature style is the "no makeup-makeup." It's a very neat trick that Manila's most in-demand makeup artists has perfected. In "Images," he sticks to this style, but also shows off his fun, wild side with camp pictures.

Fashion designer Pepito Albert is made up à la Mona Lisa. Sotto plays a North Indian gypsy with those green, green eyes.

In fact, the book is an album of Rosas' circle. "I did this project for fun and as a creative release," he explained. "At the same time, I wanted to document these creative people from the arts, the fashion and society." These also include Josine Elizalde, Josephine Knox, Margarita Fores, Ed Calma and Lucrecia Kasilag.

It took him a year and a half to round up all the subjects, though Rosas says convincing them was no difficult feat. "I have a good relationship with these people, so that made it very easy for me to convince them to participate. I told them it's a beauty book, but a very con-

ISABEL Rocas

ROBBIE Carmona

ceptual beauty book."

Finishing the book brought him to France and the United States. He was in Paris last April to shoot his good friend Ann Demene, a Sabine model for several fashion houses there.

In New York, he met with former Manila-based fashion show director Ruben Nazareth and retired model Anna Bayle, who posed with her 5-year-old son, Callum. "I told Anna, I have a concept for you, a modern take on Gauguin."

In the portraits, Rosas played a lot with lace, flowers, feathers and skin. "I really wanted to accentuate the skin" because that's where he can show off his magic with cosmetic products. In the end, however, it's neither the makeup nor the hair that's the main feature in the book. It's actually the beautiful images of people, as coaxed out by Rosas. "Beauty is the knowledge of one's self," he says.

"Patrick Rosas Images" will be launched on Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Galeria RCBC Plaza in Makati. An exhibit of the photographs in the book will run until Oct. 12.

Inday Cadapan exhibit and workshops at UST Museum



CADAPAN'S many artistic sides

"INDAY Goes Retro," a retrospective exhibit of Elsie "Inday" Cadapan, the 62-year-old expressionist who works on canvas, paper, wood, ceramic, terra cotta and found objects, opens tonight at 6 at the University of Santo Tomas Museum. It runs until Oct. 26.

In the show, Inday shows the two faces of her art: art as pleasure and comfort for the soul and art as nationalist expression of the desire for social change. The exhibit, which features an array of progressive works documenting the signs of the times and hopes for evolving women, is curated by Prof. Mary Ann Venturina Bulanadi and Jocelyn Dare Tullao. The noted writer on Philippine arts and culture, Prof. Alice Guillermo, will formally open the show.

In line with the UST Museum's education programs, a series of workshops and lectures will be held in connection with the exhibit. The workshops include: Paper Bead Making by Jean Ignacio on Oct. 15; Taka (Papier Mâché) by Pol Mesina Jr. of the Kabataang Tondo Art Group on Oct. 18; Terra-cotta Sculpture by Philippine Art Educator's Association president Alma Quinto on Oct. 20; Watercolor Painting, Charcoal and Oil Pastel Drawing by Saturday Group artists Nanding Estrella, Ben Infante and Jose Dinglasan on Oct. 27. Workshop fee is P1,500 for all modules. Call Jocelyn Tullao at 781-1815 or 740-9718 or visit the UST Museum from Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Discounts on entrance fee are given to educational tour groups.



Photo landscapes by Jacinto Tee

ROWS of verdant trees marching on a bed of green grass, a school of birds on the air and diaphanous and chocolate-hued mountains covered with immaculate snow. There's also a giant dried tree creating brown veins on the blue background. Then there are the yellow leaves of a crown-looking tree sitting majestically in the park.

These are some of the scenes captured by the lens of Jacinto Tee. After graduating from

the University of the East with a degree in advertising, Jacinto won the President Marcos Trophy and the Teodoro F. Valencia Trophy in 1981. He has exhibited his works in Las Vegas and at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

His works are now on exhibit at Photoline (2/F, Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Center). "Teescapes" runs until Oct. 15. Call 632-0545.

Esquillo at West Gallery, Serran-Pagan at Duemila



IN CELEBRATION of the 80th anniversary of the Catholic Women's Club, National Artist Arturo Luz designed the figure of a musician, a take-off from his well-known "Musician" series. Call Joey Sobrepena at 842-7621/807-1513.

ARTIST Alfred Esquillo will mount "Banig Icons," which features scroll-type mixed media works, on Oct. 11-23 at the West Gallery (4/L, SM Megamall Building). Call 634-1284.

BITANCOR AT LIONGOREN GALLERY. Edsa II is revisited in "Rebolusyon," the latest exhibit of multiawarded artist Jeho Bitancor at the Liongoren Gallery (111 New York Cubao, QC), until today, and at the Heritage Art Center (The Artwalk 4/L, SM Megamall) until Oct. 13. The show features 15 medium- to large-scale oil paintings, which is a searing pictorial commentary of the January revolution. Call 912-4319/912-4640.

THREE ARTISTS AT WEST GALLERY. Pablo Biglang-Awa, Pete Jimenez and Dindo Martinez will present "V.3.01" at the West Gallery (3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City) on Oct. 18-30. Call 752-7028 to 29.

GROUPEXHIBIT AT LAGUNA CAPITOL. "Kay Ganda ng Laguna" is on view at the lobby of the Laguna Provincial Capitol in Santa Cruz, Laguna until Oct. 15. Participating artists are Larry Ballesteros, Carlos Cea, Mat Relox, Ret Asturias, Mac Oliver Pedral, Richard Umali, Roberto Cristobal, Alma Valledor, Lynette Mamactal, Marjorie Ascobia, Rowena Fulgencio, Michelle Ballesteros, Cleopatra



"CREATION" is one of the prints on display in the "Gary Shead: After the Paintings" exhibit at the Australia Center until Oct. 19.

"XIAN" by Gines Serran-Pagan at Galeria Duemila

"KAY LAARNI ANG SARAP, SA BAYAN ANG HIRAP," oil and acrylic on canvas, by Jeho Bitancor at the Liongoren Gallery and Heritage Art Center

Relox, Rocky Alcala, Richard Sagala, Rodolfo Oliveros Jr., Jonathan Gallardo, Anthony Pedral, Ronald Valeroso, Pahong Atencia, Jun Alfons, Paquito UJun" Indig, Geoffrey Bongcalen, Michael Castillo, Aleli Lopes, Febie Sumagaysay, Michelle Ballesteros, Paolo Reyes, Doc Villacorta, Judith Bermijo and Aeron Nemino. Call (063) 524-3475.

SERRAN-PAGAN AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. New York-based Spanish artist Gines Serran-Pagan will mount "The Philippines and Spain: Memories of a Journey" at Galleria Duemila (Art Center, 4/L Building A, SM Megamall) on Oct. 13-27. Call 8319990, 634-3261, 833-9815, or 633-6687.



Pinoy artists well received in Singapore

BY JOHNATHAN LIBARIOS RONDINA

THE SMALL but cosmopolitan island-state of Singapore is no stranger to Filipino talent. It is, after all, a second home of sorts for thousands of Filipino expats who fall within a wide range of professions and persuasions, from writers to bankers, students to professionals, DHs to CEOs.

Singapore has also become a good market for Filipino artists and their works. In addition to old masters like Juan Luna and Amorsolo, the other Filipino artists who have gained recognition and patronage in the Singaporean art scene include Ramon Orlina, Onib Olmedo and National Artist Ang Kiukok.

"Philippine art can easily hold its own here," says Raymond Lee, a Singapore-based Filipino writer and art dealer. Together with Gallery Nine and the Filipino Ladies Group (FLaG), Lee organized "Lipad Sining," an exhibit of Filipino contemporary art at the Marina Mandarin Hotel last Sept. 8. The project is the first in a series of shows that aims to bring Filipino art to the world.

Sold out

The show featured the works of watercolorist Alfred Galura, sculptor Michael Cacnio and painter Fatima Antonio. "Their works were very well received," reports Lee. Fatima's floral renditions in oil, in particular, were sold out during opening night.

Cacnio's signature brass sculptures of children at play, on the other hand, caught the interest of the Sun Jin Galleries and a local art management group that is now considering the possibility of staging a one-man exhibit for the Filipino sculptor in December.

Fatima and Cacnio share a few more things in common, in addition to their newfound luck in the regional art scene. Both come from well-respected artistic families; Fatima is daughter of the master tandem of Lito Antonio and Norma Belleza, and sister of Marcel Antonio, while Michael is the son of master watercolorist Angel Cacnio.

Both are young, energetic and extremely pas-



MICHAEL Cacnio celebrates childhood in his sculptures.



FATIMA Antonio's idyllic childhood shines in her canvas

sionate about their art, putting in long working hours every day. It is precisely this youthful energy which manifests itself in their works. There is, in Fatima's paintings and Cacnio's sculptures, a shared romanticization of idyllic childhoods. Fatima's recent works, for example, combine a wide assortment of flowers with random playthings. Cacnio's "Bata" sculptures of children in various acts of games and play, on the other hand, remain popular among art collectors.

Cacnio and Fatima explore these themes yet again via a back-to-back show dubbed "Days of Innocence," which opens on Oct. 12 at Gallery Nine along Jupiter Street in Bel-Air, Makati. The show will feature Fatima's latest impasto works in small- and medium-sized canvases, and Cacnio's new brass sculptures including "Lay-up," "Sipa," "Swing," "Karera" and "Kurunungan."

"Days of Innocence" runs until Oct. 27. Call 899-2704.

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BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse Jackson, Paul Hogan, Sigourney Weaver, Matt Damon, Chevy Chase
Happy Birthday: You have a lot on your mind. Slow down and look at each idea carefully. Trust in your own abilities and creativity. It's time to be a leader. Your numbers: 18, 21, 26, 38, 44, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid confrontations with a co-worker who isn't pulling his or her own weight. If you've bent over backward to help, stop assuming the responsibility. You can't always pick up the pieces for others.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be emotional if you haven't taken care of problems with loved ones. Don't keep running away from your true feelings. Sort out your differences and get back into the swing of things.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Problems with relatives will cause friction. Don't go into business with friends or family, and avoid debt. Opportunities for travel must be carefully considered.
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your need to be in love may deceive you. Don't overreact if someone around you has a poor attitude. Instead, choose to do things without him or her. One-sided attractions are likely. You need to re-evaluate your situation.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Aida sitcom
5 Poetic eyes
9 Indian tea
14 vera
15 Flask
16 Tanklike creature, briefly
17 With 21A, 34A, and 55A, signature line by 42A
19 Ship's payload
20 Spartan
21 See 17A
23 Pollution patrol grp.
24 Voiced sounds
25 42A's stock-in-trade
30 Bird's bill
31 Mil. address
32 Bounces back
34 See 17A
38 Perch
40 Bossy remark
41 Comic starter?
42 With 48A, game-show hostess
43 German
45 Balin or Claire
46 Black goo
48 See 42A
50 Excluded surgically
54 Star Wars letters
55 See 17A
56 Floating frozen mass
60 Pond scum
61 Hometown of 42A
63 Comes upon
64 Son of Judah
65 from Muskogee
66 Selling point
67 Hawaiian goose
68 Half a golf course
DOWN
1 Yucatan people
2 Baseball family name
3 Old French coins
4 Impassioned
5 Bowl over
6 Sacred service
7 Scrooge expletive
8 Oodles
9 Mysterious
10 Easily rattled
11 Alluring woman
12 Anxiety
13 Hypothetical legal cases
18 Gunshot
22 Many millennia
25 Amazon estuary
26 Au courant
27 Roger Rabbit feature
28 Dub
29 Search thoroughly
33 Movie pooch
35 Writer Murdoch
36 Boxer
37 Benvenuto
38 Zen paradox
39 Prenuptial step
41 Duke of the Dodgers
43 Low card
44 Indecent
47 Under ideal circumstances
49 Japan
50 Old World lizard
51 Tree trunks
52 Theater areas
53 French actor
56 Terrible Isar? golfer Isao
57 Japanese
58 Nickel or dime
59 Swiss artist
62 Resembling: suff.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your self-esteem will return if you're in the limelight and entertain others at organizational functions. You can meet new friends who will appreciate how valuable you are.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take everything so seriously. You need to mellow out. Check out challenging physical activities that will reduce stress and motivate you.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Activities or meetings will provide information on foreign lands, philosophies or cultures. It's time to explore all your options.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Communication will open doors to new adventures. You will be able to ferret out secret information on an amazing financial deal. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get a grip on your life and learn to enjoy yourself. Check out social activities in your community so that you can meet some new people. Romance is in the air.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will certainly help you forge ahead. Your determination and stamina make your work appear effortless and flawless.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's up to you to make the changes to turn your life and attitude around. The key to feeling good about yourself is to return to a routine and become a better-looking, more aware individual.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Overindulgence will cause problems with loved ones. Try to curb bad habits and compromise if your partner makes an ultimatum. It's time to be a responsible person at home and at work.
Birthday Baby: Your built-in intuition will enable you to make the right choices throughout life. You are charming, hard-working and gifted at pleasing others. You have a creative mind and an energetic approach to life.

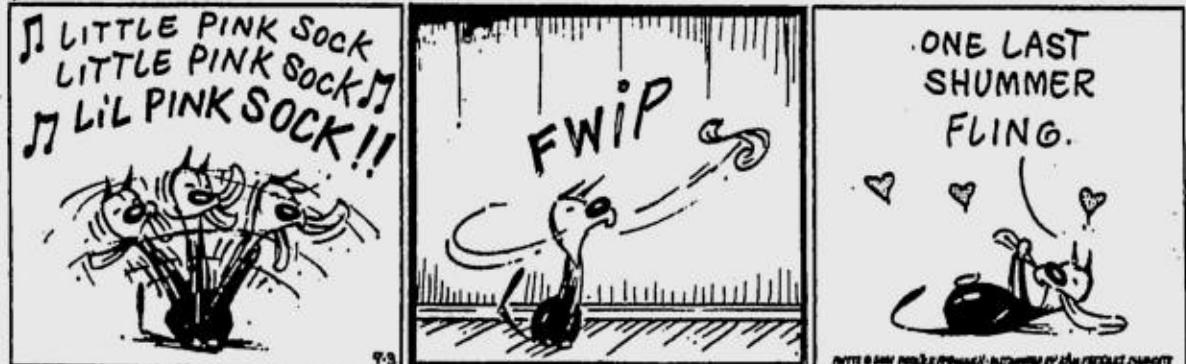
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



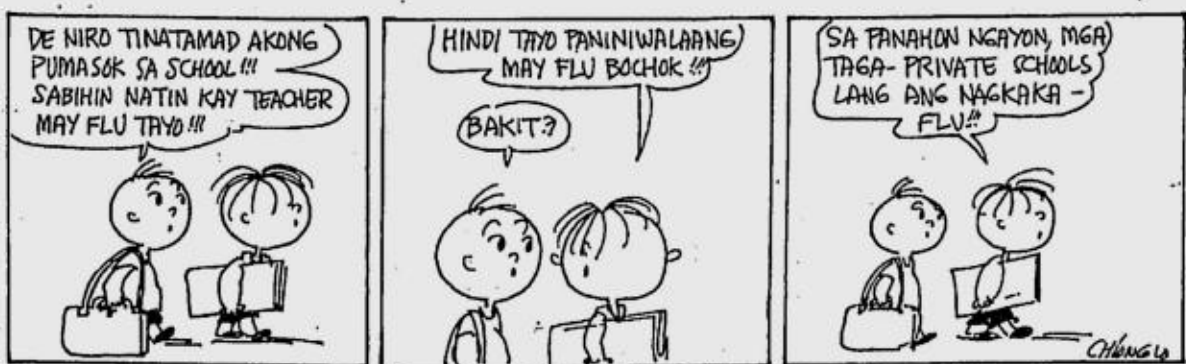
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



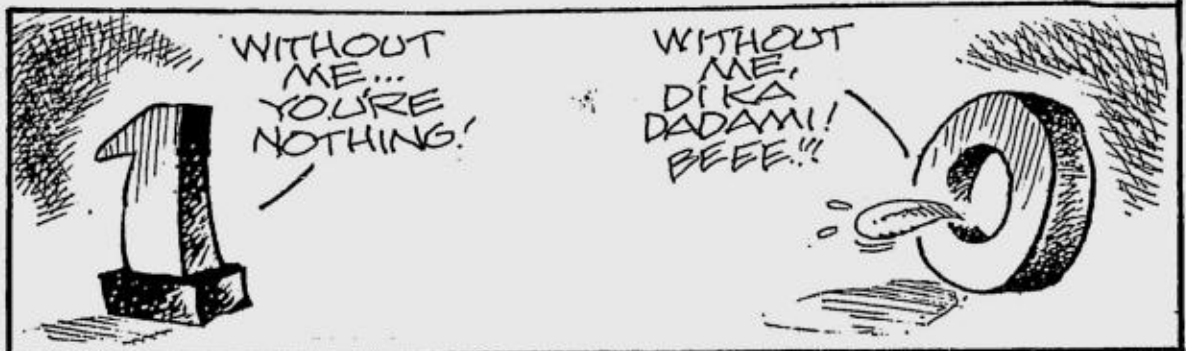
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Francisco V. Coching's works on exhibit



THE WORKS of the late Francisco V. Coching, widely considered the dean of Filipino comics illustrators, will be exhibited on Oct. 11 to Nov. 30 at the Bulwagang Carlos V. Francisco of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The formal opening will be at 6:30 p.m.

A storyteller and illustrator, Coching (1919-1998) entertained millions of Filipinos of different generations with his graphic novels that were later made into motion pictures.

Coching's stories run the gamut of human experience, from the historical to the fantastic. He created exciting stories and events and drew readers in a visually arresting manner without sacrificing emotional and psychological insight.

Among Coching's most famous graphic novels were "Pedro Penduko," "Marabini," "Lapu-lapu," "La Sombra," "Sabas, Ang Barbaro," "El Indio," "Hagibis" and "Gigolo." All but three of his 53 novels were made into hit movies.



COCHING, master storyteller and draftsman



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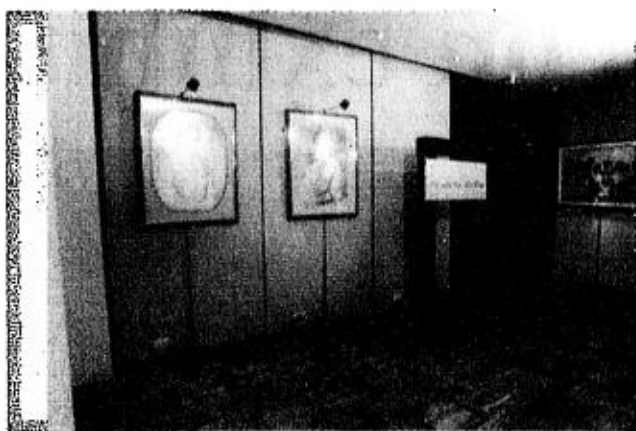
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THE ENTRANCE to the Aquino Museum in Tarlac, a quietly impressive and world-class edifice.



THE REPLICA of Ninoy's isolated room cum cell in the military camp in Laur, Nueva Ecija, contains his personal belongings, such as the actual bulletin board where he stuck pictures of his family and the cards they sent. A coat hangs nearby.



FORMER President Corazon C. Aquino does her bit as museum tour guide.

THE AQUINO MUSEUM IN TARLAC

A memorial to martyrdom

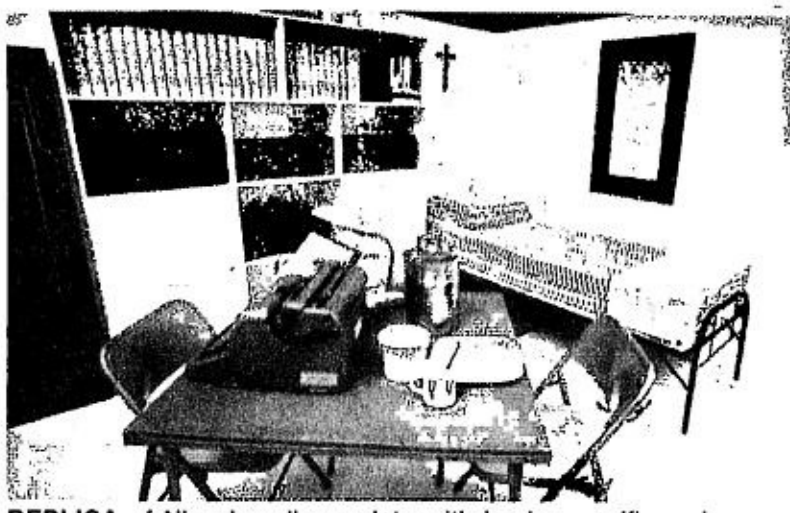
TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY MANDY NAVASERO

SOON there will be time to think of what it took to create a pantheon of powerful memories such as this. But right now, there is only the place. And ushering us into the bosom of her life's work is the woman herself, former President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino. No longer the grieving widow, yet still a strong and vibrant reminder of what was and what must never, ever be again.

"I will be your tour guide," she simply offers. The tall ceilings of the foyer hall add drama to the paths of the four stark photographs summarizing the totality of the museum. "I want to show the key events that led to my presidency; I want this to be a contribution from Ninoy and I."

From the right, the enlarged photographs showed Aquino's trial, then the horror at the tarmac, a widow's mourning, and then Cory Aquino being sworn in as president.

The museum is beautiful. As one enters the wide doors, one is struck by its neat orderliness and hushed quietness. One enters with a sense of awe, like being in a cathedral or at Lincoln's Memorial, perhaps. Those who are aware of Ninoy's long, dark journey into the night, anticipate the pain the



REPLICA of Ninoy's cell complete with books, crucifix and vintage typewriter

memories must bring.

Heart and soul

You proceed to the audiovisual room for "The Heart and Soul," a documentary annotated by the late Jose Mari Velez, Ninoy's fellow political detainee. And Ninoy's history begins to unravel. You cry at the airport events and the funeral cortege.

The photographic modules begin with family portraits of the Aquinos and the Cojuangcos. There are light

moments, the pigeon flying back after release and alighting on Cory's head during their wedding banquet. And Tessie Aquino missing in the earliest photographs. No, she was not removed. She was simply not born yet then.

You see Ninoy as journalist, a glass case containing his 1950s paraphernalia. Ninoy covering Huk chief Luis Tarc's surrender. His Korean exploits. His political beginnings in Tarlac. And always interspersed are pictures of Ni-

noy and his family.

One proceeds to the next modules with a sense of impending gloom. Soon, there are Ninoy's uphill political battles. Becoming senator. Ninoy's exposés. The Plaza Miranda massacre. The arrest at the Hilton Hotel. The trial. The death sentence.

Loneliness of Laur

And then, the haunting isolation of Laur. At the center of the museum is the re-creation of the room of his confinement in the military camp in Laur, Nueva Ecija. His worn-out slippers underneath the bed. The foam beddings his children spread out to lie on. The crucifix from Jose Diokno, another famous detainee released ahead of him. The books he was allowed to read. The dates on the wall he etched with a nail. His religious conversion. They are all there amid the loneliness of Laur.

There is blessed relief when the Aquinos are allowed to leave for Boston for Ninoy's heart operation. The happiest years of their lives as a complete family are evident in the photographs. A brief hiatus before real tragedy takes place on Aug. 21, 1983.

Then, there is the surreal series of Ninoy aboard the plane as Marcial Bonifacio, the military taking him off the plane upon arrival in the then Manila International Airport, a Ninoy sprawled on the tarmac, and the blood-

ied corpse with Doña Aurora, his grieving mother, and Cory and the children in various stages of implacable grief and pain. The blood-spattered clothes are encased for the world to see.

The 1986 Snap Elections are called and there are Salvador "Doy" Laurel and their political slate in campaign sorties, and then events lead to another, culminating in the EDSA Revolution.

There are panoramic tableaux standing face to face in the museum, one showing the funeral cortege of Ninoy, and another showing the civil disobedience rally in Luneta after Marcos stole the snap elections in 1986. As Cory put it, "Everybody was telling me *walang pupunta sa Luneta*, but I said it must be there." History is witness to her instinctive and wise choice. The people came.

Chronicle of Cory's triumph

The rest of the Aquino Museum is a chronicle of Cory's triumph—the first Filipino president to address the US Congress, her many goodwill travels abroad and the precious gifts of state

she received until she relinquished the title to her anointed, Gen. Fidel V. Ramos.

It is time to go. Not because the clock on the wall says so, but because there is only so much impression one can carry away without feeling distraught and agitated. The Aquino Museum quietly overwhelms. One must leave it, only to return again, to learn life's lessons with objectivity, without hatred, with forgiveness, but with a vow that Ninoy's martyrdom must never happen again.

"Ang dami pang puwede kong ilagay pero si Ninoy na muna (I still have my own memorabilia but I gave way to Ninoy first)," the former President simply, and modestly, says.

The Aquino Museum is accessible within the Hacienda de Luisita Mall in Tarlac. It is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. A minimum entrance fee of P50 is intended to help maintain the museum. Special student and tourist group tours may be arranged through Rachel at 818-3911.

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[illegible]

Canyon Woods residents dedicate chapel to Infant Jesus

THE NEED to gather for worship is prevalent in these uncertain times. The Canyon Woods Residential Resort in Laurel, Batangas saw the need to build a chapel where homeowners and guests can hear Mass on Saturday or Sunday to fulfill their Sunday obligation.

It took three months to build the chapel on a 3,000-sq m area with the committee headed by Tony Adriano and with the full support of George S. Go, president and CEO. The chapel was blessed and dedicated on Sept. 30 by Bishop Salvador Quizon, auxiliary bishop of Lipa. Concelebrating with him in the Mass were Msgr. Toti Mandanas of Balayan, Batangas, Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan of the Lipa Cathedral and Fr. Henry de Ocampo of the Don Bosco Retreat House in Tagaytay.

From early times, the name "church" had been given to the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to celebrate the sacraments and to celebrate the Eucharist.

The chapel at Canyon Woods is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of the Infant Jesus. The Congregation del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus donated the image that is enshrined in the altar.

During the blessing, the bishop incensed the altar, received the miter, returned to his chair and was incensed in turn. Afterward, the other priests incensed

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang



the people and the main body of the chapel.

During the Offertory, George Go and his wife Terri brought the cloth for the newly blessed altar.

While George Go had the chapel built, Tony Adriano designed the altar and interiors. Aurora and Porfirio Trinidad gave the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Lilibeth and Bernie Buenaseda, the image of St. Joseph; Maritess and Joey Jacob, the big crucifix; Ma. Christina and Modesto Rubio, vestments; Jose and Tessie Howard, electric fans; Franklin and Raquel Abadies, Danny and Sally Antonio, Rosemarie and Antonio Villareal, lawyer Florecita Flores, Lilia and Eric Abad Santos, Antonia and Robert Siy, Roderick and Menchie Gamboa, pews.

Jaime and Yolanda Dinglasan, together with Benjamin and Gloria Sison, donated the chandeliers and altar table.



Patrons were Ben and Carmen de Vera, Edita Sardea, Asencio-Pinzon, Mr. and Ms. Mario Gloria, Property Exchange, Apple & Company (carpet), GG&A and BDG.

Pablo Francisco donated the cruets for the Offertory. Other donors were Elite Construction, Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr., Hilario and Leoncia Uy, Emily Chua, Juanito Mendoza, Danilo and Gilda Choa, Joselina de

ITO Curata and Allan Tengco with Dolly Carrion, Fr. Jesus Encinas, Lourdes Mendoza-Curata and Jerry Salazar

Vera, Cynthia Reyes, Mr. and Ms. Redentor Galura, Mario Cruz, Marina Mata, Ma. Theresa Francisco, Bella and Marcelus Lim, Teresita Sarmiento, Jose Nicolas Jr. and family, and Mr. and Ms. Pedro Ang.

Helping in the chapel committee were Julie Najar, resort general manager, and Mayette Ramos, resident manager. Efrén de Jose was events organizer. Members of the Congregation attended the blessing of the chapel. Laurel Mayor Natalio Panganiban was also present during the blessing and the Mass.

La Naval procession

THE HIGHLIGHT of the fiesta of Our Lady of La Naval is the solemn procession of the image around Quezon City. This year's fiesta falls on Oct. 14 and the procession begins at 5 p.m. from the Sto. Domingo Church.

Devotees from Manila and the provinces come to fulfill a *panata* or to say "thank you." I know people who go every year on the second Sunday of October. All the Dominican saints are borne in resplendent *carrozas* preceding that of the Virgin of La Naval.

The Holy Mass and fiesta will be aired on Channel 4 via live telecast at 10 a.m. Fr. Roger Quirao, O.P., is the present chaplain of the La Naval.

Angel exhibit

THE ANGEL Society opened an exhibit of angel images on Oct. 2, feast of the Angels, at the San Agustin Museum. The exhibit was opened by *hermanos mayores* Ito Curata and Allan Tengco, representing his mother Amelita Rodriguez-Tengco.

Fr. Jesus Encinas, O.S.A. celebrated the Mass before the exhibit opening. After the Mass, the image of St. Gabriel owned by Ben de Jesus was brought in a procession around the church through the museum to the Sala de Capitulacion.

Thanks to the *hermanos* and sponsors like Danny Dolor and Belen Martel, for the support they gave to the event.

The Agustin Music and Sounds provided songs for the Mass and for the reception. Mar Lupato was the vocalist; Cecille Sumague, pianist; and Russell Camelotes, violinist.

I've written often in my column about our guardian angels. All of us have one, given to us by God at the moment of our conception. But their importance is better explained by Fr. William Wagner, O.R.B., in his article printed in the Immaculate Heart Messenger.

He writes: "The guardian angel is for us the door to the world of the angels and in a certain sense a porter of heaven. Appointed by God for us, the words of St. Thomas, referred to in the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' are particularly true to them: 'The angels take part in all our good works ('Summa Theologica')." Don't forget to pray to your guardian angel before you leave the house. He will protect you wherever you go. If you wish to see the different images of angels, please visit San Agustin Museum. Exhibit ends Oct. 14.

Sto. Niño de Providencia association

THOSE who wish to be members of the Asociacion del Sto. Niño de Providencia can call Lorna Gonzales at 873-0381 or write her at 65 Pijuan St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City. Please write down your birthday so the priest friends of the association can pray for you.

Our Lady of the Pillar feast

OUR Lady of the Pillar Parish in Pilar, Batangas marks the feast of Our Lady on Oct. 12. The parish is marking its 200th anniversary that will close on Oct. 12. Fr. Robert Tayao, the parish priest, wrote to say that the Philippine Postal Corp. issued a commemorative stamp to mark the event.

Our Lady of La Leche at Rosary Theater

ROSARY Theater on the 5/L Shangri-La Mall will be the venue for the Mass celebrating the feast of Our Lady of La Leche on Oct. 11 at 4 p.m. Every Tuesday at 3 p.m., there's Holy Mass, Cenacle and recitation of the Rosary in the same place. Pregnant women are encouraged to come and pray for safe delivery.



BISHOP Salvador Quizon puts coals on the altar

Biography of Filipino candidates for sainthood

"STARS of Peace: The Talangpaz Sisters," a biography of the founders of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters by Dr. Luciano P. R. Santiago, will be launched on Oct. 13, 10 a.m., at St. Rita College, Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila.

Mother Dionisia Mitos and Sister Cecilia Rosa Talangpaz were born into a well-to-do family in Calumpit, Bulacan during the 18th century, but their devotion to the Blessed Virgin led them to leave earthly comforts and found the Beaterio de San Sebastian de Calumpit. Vatican authorities have sent word that they see no obstacle in the beatification of the two women.

In his foreword to the book, Jaime Cardinal Sin acclaimed the two sisters for enriching and gladdening the Christian community "by their lives of simplicity, chastity and obedience and by the edifying fruits of their prayers totally offered for the cause of the Kingdom." The congregation they founded has flourished for more than two and a half centuries, overcoming in the beginning the racial bigotry of their time.

The public is invited.



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Dulaang UP turns 'commercial'

BY CORA LLAMAS

DISTANCE. It's probably the single complaint that one can make against the critically acclaimed 30-year-old theater group whose many distinguished alumni have become key players on stage, film and television.

Regardless of the company's excellent word-of-mouth, the average drama viewer still finds it hard to brave the intense Edsa traffic to get to Diliman, especially during Friday nights or weekend matinees.

Things might finally improve, though. Dulaang UP (DUP) plans to extend its boundaries the next few years—in terms of audience reach, professional (translate: commercial) accreditation, and yes, market share. If things go well, in a few years' time, a DUP production just may open in the more accessible Makati or Ortigas venues.

At least, this is the plan of the next generation of leaders now managing the theater organization after founding father, Tony Mabesa, stepped down and retired. The new faces are not exactly new; many of them have fought the good fight with Mabesa during the organization's rough start and stayed through all these years as resident directors-cum-faculty members.

Renowned director Anton Juan, the most senior of the group, is the director-general who oversees the over-all direction of the company. Jose Estrella, who stunned audiences last year with her dark, disturbing "Divinas Palabras," is the artistic director who manages the seasons, assisted by various directors. Jina Umali, the new managing director, takes care of the nitty-gritty day-to-day activities. DUP stalwarts Alex Cortez, Amiel Leonardia, Edna May Landicho and Ogie Juliano will still helm theater productions this season.

Flexible

The DUP leaders say that the structure is very flexible; functions and responsibilities are still being worked out. One thing remains, though: "We are very collaborative," Juan says. "All of us serve the academic department at UP. We supplement the kind of play where we feel it is needed. That's one way to get a wide range of productions, which will show theater history, contemporary influences, and the Filipino plays, all in one season."

All the directors, who have forged close time-tested friendships and working relationships by now, take turns criticizing each other. One of the worst admonitions that one can get, which also serves to uphold the high standards, is: "You're taking the easy way out."

Heaven forbid. This would definitely clash with one of DUP's goals, which Juan describes as "lifting the cultural taste." He explains: "I'm not saying that there are no other theater groups that are doing this challenge, because there are. I am just saying that we do not want to do easy pieces. We work so that the audience can be a reader of the text and can give meaning himself to what they see."

This season's eclectic list of productions is certainly far from being run of the mill. Estrella opened it last July with a very subdued, but poignant and image-laden "The Winter's Tale." Estrella claims that it was the first time that the Shakespearean romance had been done in this country, both in English and in a new (non-Tinio) Tagalog translation.

Last August, Juan followed up with an enthralling "Crave," a disturbing British psychological drama that pierced into the heart of madness. "It's a contemporary piece that really needs a lot of thinking. It has terrified critics," Juan challenges. "The playwright, the late Sarah Kane, is either loved or hated. Her style is very muscular or physical."

DUP turns to comedy in November, as Ogie Juliano modernizes the Severino Montano classic, "The Merry Wives of Manila."

Come the month of hearts, Alex Cortez will direct "Hibik at Himagsik Nina Victoria Lactao," a three-act zarzuela written by Bien Lumbera. One of the play's highlight is the production design by Salvador Bernal, "the dean of Filipino stage design," who returns to work in a UP play after 25 years.



JOSE Estrella

Foundation

DUP is in the process of being incorporated into a foundation. This means it will branch out from being a university-based theater organization into a full-blown, "professional, commercial" theater company. In effect, the establishment of the foundation will create two theater companies: the Dulaang UP Professionals Company and the Dulaang UP Student Theater Company.

The Dulaang UP Student Theater Company will become the arena for students, encouraging them to stage their own productions and market them as well. Right now, the DUP faculty/professional directors are still taking a hands-on approach when it comes to a production's staging.

The Dulaang UP Professionals Company will be made up of theater pros, most of them alumni. Performing within and outside of the academe, the company will reach out to the more mainstream audience, offering a variety of productions, ranging from classics to contemporary, Filipino and foreign.

A myth that the current DUP leadership wants to debunk is that academic theater does not necessarily mean lower production standards compared to commercial theater.

"We will be expanding from an academic theater into full commercial theater. This does not preclude professionalism on both the academic student theater, the university theater group, and the professional theater company," Juan says with his usual fiery intensity.

"We cannot stay within the confines of the Guerrero Theater. There's a different world and audience outside. We want to show them that watching theater is a very different experience than watching the movies. And we really want to develop an audience that thinks! I don't think people get entertained by something that's old and been done. Innovativeness entertains them!"

Dulaang UP's production of "The Merry Wives of Manila," written by Severino Montano and directed by Ogie Juliano, will run at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater this November. Call 924-8589.



ALEX Cortez

The theater company has grown beyond the stuffy Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater. It wants 'out'—to go outside of Diliman



ORGANIZERS ALL SET FOR CINE EUROPA 4. Maral Grazia Anelli (Embassy of Italy), Rodney Bell (British Council), Mauritster Kulle (Embassy of the Netherlands), Lala Fojas (Shangri-La Plaza), Eva Verstraelen (Embassy of Belgium), Harald Ulbrich (Embassy of Austria), Marja Korhonen (Embassy of Finland), Barni Alunan (EU Commission), Martin Macalintal (Embassy of France) and Robert Leon (EU Commission)

All is set for Cine Europa at Shangri-La Plaza

THE EUROPEAN Union, in partnership with Shangri-La Plaza, is set for the fourth edition of Cine Europa slated on Oct. 10-20 at the Cinema 1 of the Shangri-La Plaza. Participating in Cine Europa 4 are 11 EU member countries, namely Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

This year's EU presidency is Belgium. The traditional opening gala (by invitation only) on Oct. 9 will feature Belgium's "Gaston's War" adapted from the eponymous biography written by Allan Mayer. The film is one of the latest works of award-winning director Robbe de Hert who received the Grand Audience Award at the 1973 Knokke Film Festival for his feature debut film, "Camera Sutra." "Camera Sutra" was followed by documentaries including "Death of a Sandwichman" and "Le Filet Americain" and other feature films like "Maria Danneels, bel levee dat we droomen" (selected for Berlin), "Zware Jongens, Blueberry Hill" (selected for Panorama Berlin 1989), "Trouble in Paradise" and "Brylcreem Boulevard."

Films to be featured are Florian Flicker's "Suzie Washington" (Austria), Robbe de Hert's "Gaston's War" (Belgium), Katrin Ottarsdottir's "Bye Bye Blue Bird" (Denmark), Karl Vaananen's "Classic" (Finland), Pierre Jolivet's "My Little Business" (France), Andreas Dresen's "Night Shapes" (Germany),



"THE CLASSIC," based on a novel by Kari Hotakainen, Finland

Claudia Florio's "The Queen of Chess" (Italy), Jean van de Velde's "Leak" (Netherlands), Iciar Bollain's "Flowers From An other World" (Spain), Kjell-Ake Andersson's "Christmas Oratorio" (Sweden) and Michael Winterbottom's "Wonderland" (UK). Aside from feature films, a number of the participating countries will also be featuring their best short films like Oscar 2001 winner "Father and Daughter" (Netherlands).

Cine Europa 4 will have three screenings daily (2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.). All films have English subtitles. Admission is free. Call 633-7851 local 107.



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JONATHAN
Zaens in
musical action

A dramatic Bach B Minor without the applause

(From page F1)

"Stabat Mater" at the Berliner Schauspielhaus and Purcell's "Dido" and "Aeneas" next year.

Zaens may have to give up appearing in a contemporary opera, "Michael's Jugend (Michael's Childhood)," by noted composer Karlheinz Stockhausen.

Last week, all performances of Stockhausen's works, including an opera running in Hamburg, were ordered cancelled because of the composer's comment that what happened at the World Trade Center was a "work of art." This caused a controversy in the German press and the poor musician is now in trouble.

As of 1998, Stockhausen has written more than 283 individually performable works, including 33 works for orchestra.

Germany-based Filipino composer Alan Hilario said that Stockhausen is a living icon in Ger-

A Berlin classical performance with Filipino baritone Jonathan Zaens closed without ovation—in memory of the thousands who died during Terrorist Tuesday

man contemporary music and his favorite piece Stockhausen is the Gruppen for 3 Orchestra. But starting from Stockhausen's work cycle series "Licht (Light)" and his latest output, Hilario said he has lost interest in the German composer.

But Stockhausen, through the Internet, said he was actually quoted out of context.

In one press conference in Hamburg, he was asked if Michael, Eve and Lucifer were historical figures in the past and he answered that they still exist now, especially Lucifer in New York.

Pointed out Stockhausen: "In my work, I have defined Lucifer, the cosmic spirit of rebellion and of anarchy. He uses his high degree of intelligence to destroy creation. He does not know love. After further questions about events in America, I said that such a plan appeared to be Lucifer's greatest work of art. Of course, I said the designation 'work of art' to mean the work of destruction personified in Lucifer in the context of my other comments, this was unequivocal. I cannot find a fitting name for such a 'satanic composition.' In my case, it was not and is not my intention to hurt anyone. Since the beginning of the attack onward I have felt solidarity with all the human beings mourning this atrocity. The journalist in Hamburg completely ripped my statements out of context, which he had not recorded in its entirety and used it as a vile attack against my person and the Hamburg Music Festival."

In closing, Stockhausen said that the whole situation was regrettable and he was deeply sorry if his remarks were misconstrued to offend the grieving families of the brutal terrorist attacks.

I guess the phrase "work of art" to describe what happened in New York was regrettable even if it was made in the context of Lucifer's despicable designs.

Meanwhile, some \$10 million worth of artworks were destroyed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York. If this were Lucifer's grand evil design, would you still describe the destruction of these artworks as one of his (Lucifer's) works of art?

Here and there

VIOLINIST Isaac Stern passed away recently. He was last seen in the movie "Music of the Heart" where he toured and explained to Merryll Streep the acoustical qualities of Carnegie Hall, which he helped save.

Our condolence to the family of poet Mike Bigornia who recently passed away after a heart attack. The last time I was with Mike, I was dragged to this karaoke session and I played the role of Stockhausen by ribbing the poet that karaoke singing is the lowest form of art. But there was no doubt in my mind that Mike was a very good poet.

Pianist Cecile Licad was about to shop in the World Trade Center area on the morning two commercial airlines crashed in New York's most famous landmark but she backed out at the last minute. Cellist Victor Michael Coo, who is now in Washington, D.C. had to cope with cancelled classes on the day another airliner crashed in the Pentagon building. Coo just came from a music festival in France.

Among those shocked is Canada-based soprano Eleanor Calbes who might be in Manila in August next year for the 45th anniversary of Bayanihan. Aside from Licad, Nena del Rosario and Evelyn Mandac, Calbes was one of the soloists of Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa in one of her concert engagements many years back. La Calbes happens to be the niece of Tuguegarao Bishop Diosdado Talamayan who coordinated the Cagayan concert of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes last July.

While BBC is covering how the music scene has been affected by the terrorist attacks (BBY Symphony led by Leonard Slatkin dedicated its latest concert to the victims of terrorist attacks and played Barber's Adagio for Strings and Beethoven's Ninth), there is no hint from CNN as to how the performing arts scene in New York is doing. There are only announcements of cancellations of Broadway shows and nothing from the Lincoln Center.

(As in the print media, there is also dearth of arts-literate correspondents even in the broadcast medium. It's about time the CCP and NCCA initiate a training for future arts journalists. When the present crop of music writers fades out, only developments in the pop music scene will dominate the lifestyle pages.)

Even as a scenario of another world war is in the making, the Philippine Philharmonic will push through with its European tour from Oct. 19 to Nov. 4 with Rustan's as its fairy godmother (it took care of the orchestra's air tickets). Nena del Rosario is soloist in a Mozart concerto in Prague while soprano Andion Fernandez, Camille Lopez, tenor Abdul Candao and pianist Aries Caces will alternate as soloists in Gijon, Pontevedra, Orense, Burgos and Madrid (all in Spain), Klagenfurt (Austria), Rome (Italy) and Berlin (Germany).

Academic forum on terrorism

THE DEPARTMENT of Arts and Humanities of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and Letters will hold a colloquium and discussion on "Terrorism as a Discourse" at the conference room of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies (G/F St. Raymond of Penafort Building) today at 8 a.m.

To read papers are Dr. Alfredo Co ("Terrorism: A Postmodern View"), lawyer Reynaldo Lopez ("Terrorism: A Clash of Civilizations?"), Prof. Ferdinand Lopez ("Terrorism as a Cultural Text"), Prof. Alvin Ang ("The Impact of Terrorism on the Philippine Economy") and Prof. Justo Samaniego ("Islamic Terrorism: Current History, Magnitude, Trends and Projections").

The latest books of faculty members will also be launched: "Karunungan: A Journal of Philosophy, Vol. XVIII," edited by Co for the Philippine Academy of Philosophical Research; "Paul Claudel: Catholic Dramatist" by Dr. Milagros Tanlayco; and "Selyo at Kastilyo: A Teleplay" by Aurora Yumul. All are published by the UST Publishing House.

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